

On Top Of The News Email:[news@arubatoday.com](mailto:news@arubatoday.com) website: [www.arubatoday.com](http://www.arubatoday.com) Tel:+297 582-7800 Friday, September 18, 2015

# RESET

## US Preparing Shift in Approach in Syria

U.S. Central Command Commander Gen. Lloyd Austin III, testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington. The Obama administration is preparing a major overhaul of its failed effort to train thousands of moderate Syrian rebels to fight the Islamic State group, shifting from preparing rebels for frontline combat to a plan to embed them with established Kurdish and Arab forces in northeastern Syria, U.S. officials said. The discussion of a new approach comes a day after Austin, told Congress that the \$500 million effort to train 5,000 moderate Syrian rebels in a year had yielded "four or five" new fighters after another 50 or so were captured, wounded or fled in their first encounter with extremist militants.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

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# US Preparing Shift in Approach in Syria

ROBERT BURNS

LOLITA C. BALDOR

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Obama administration is preparing a major overhaul of its failed effort to train thousands of moderate Syrian rebels to fight the Islamic State group, shifting from preparing rebels for frontline combat to a plan to embed them with established Kurdish and Arab forces in northeastern Syria, U.S. officials said.

Instead of fighting the Islamic State in small units, the U.S.-trained rebels would be attached to larger existing Kurdish and Arab forces. They would be equipped with U.S. communications gear and trained to provide intelligence and to designate IS targets for airstrikes in coordination with U.S. troops outside of Syria, the officials said.

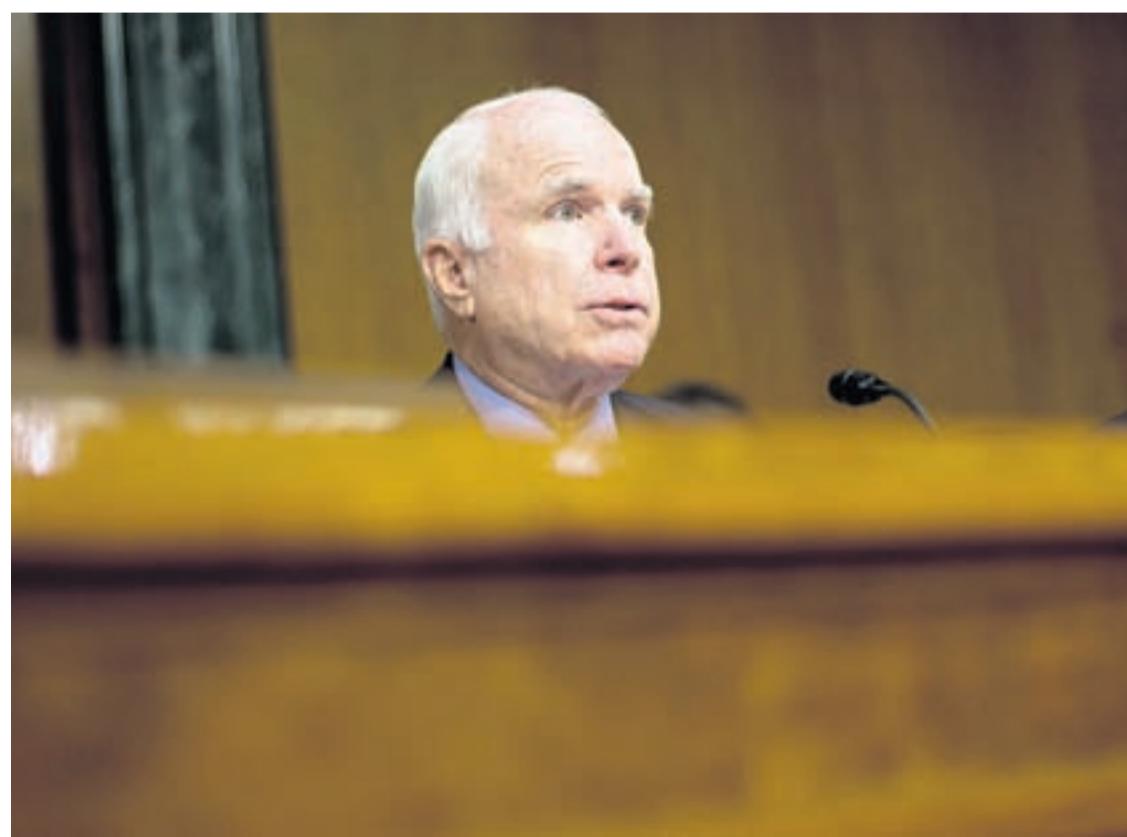
The change amounts to an acknowledgement that the administration's current approach is not working. It was described by officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because a final decision on how to proceed has not been made. The discussion of a new

approach comes a day after the head of U.S. Central Command, Gen. Lloyd Austin, told Congress that the \$500 million effort to train 5,000 moderate Syrian rebels in a year had yielded "four or five" new fighters after another 50 or so were captured, wounded or fled in their first encounter with extremist militants.

The new approach is designed to intensify military pressure on Raqqa, the self-declared capital of the so-called caliphate the Islamic State has established across much of Syria and Iraq. The city is sometimes targeted by American-led coalition airstrikes, and Syrian government forces have occasionally targeted it as well.

In addition to changing the role of the U.S.-trained rebels, the Pentagon would scale back their numbers from the original target of 5,400 per year to a much smaller total, perhaps 500, the officials said. Their vetting, designed to weed out terrorist infiltrators, also would be streamlined, one official said Thursday.

Pentagon press secretary Peter Cook told reporters Thursday that officials are



Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., R-Ariz., questions US Central Command Commander Gen. Lloyd Austin III, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2015, during the committee's hearing on US military operations to counter the Islamic State in Iraq.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

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looking to make "adjustments," adding, "We're asking a host of questions about this program." He said the plan is for it to continue "in some form or fashion." He was not more specific.

Austin, who leads the anti-Islamic State campaign, told a Senate committee Wednesday that only four or five U.S.-trained rebels are currently operating inside Syria. That compares to the administration's original goal to train and equip 5,000 fighters by the end of this year.

Austin's disclosure triggered an avalanche of caustic comments. Republican Sen. Kelly Ayotte, a New Hampshire Republican, called it "a joke." Republican Sen. John McCain said it was further proof that the administration's counter-IS strategy is an "abject failure."

In light of Austin's admission, Cook was asked Thursday whether Defense Secretary Ash Carter was considering firing the four-star Army general. Cook said Carter has "full confidence" in Austin.

At Wednesday's hearing, Austin and the Pentagon's policy chief, Christine Wormuth, made oblique references to altering the train-and-equip program, which Congress authorized last December with \$500 million in funding.

Saying the program "has gotten off to a slow start," Austin said he was considering "the best means to employ these forces as we go forward," taking into account lessons learned from having sent an initial group of 54 U.S.-trained rebels into Syria in late July only to have them immediately attacked by al-Nusra, a Syrian al-Qaida affiliate. □

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## Officers stress dangers involved in search for Bowe Bergdahl

JUAN A. LOZANO  
Associated Press

**SAN ANTONIO (AP)** — The commanders of Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl's platoon, company and battalion testified Thursday that his disappearance from his post in Afghanistan six years ago put a strain on their forces and put his fellow soldiers in danger.

Attorneys for Bergdahl, who is charged with desertion and misbehavior before the enemy, will get to present their own evidence and call witnesses on Friday on the second day of the hearing to determine if Bergdahl should face a court-martial. His lead attorney, Eugene Fidell, said after Thursday's proceedings that he would call four witnesses, though he declined to say if Bergdahl would be one of them.

Military prosecutors focused on trying to substantiate the misbehavior charge, which carries a possible life sentence and



Col. Daniel J.W. King, right, U.S. Army Forces Command Director of Public Affairs, speaks to members of the media after a preliminary hearing to determine if Sgt. Bergdahl should face a court-martial, Thursday, Sept. 17, 2015, at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio. Bergdahl, who left his post in Afghanistan and was held by the Taliban for five years, is charged with desertion and misbehavior before the enemy. (AP Photo/Darren Abate)

which would require them to prove that Bergdahl's actions put other soldiers in harm's way. Capt. John Billings, who led Bergdahl's platoon, described the 45-day search for the Idaho native as grueling, saying

soldiers got little food or sleep and endured temperatures in the high-90s. "Physically, mentally I was defeated," Billings said, adding that he felt like he had "failed" his men.

His company command-

er, Maj. Silvino Silvino, said some of the thousands of soldiers who took part in the search were angry about it because they felt Bergdahl had deserted.

"I would tell them we are doing what we are doing

because he is our brother," Silvino testified.

Finally, Bergdahl's battalion commander, Col. Clinton Baker, said that although no soldiers died as part of the search, there was a spike in improvised explosive device attacks because soldiers were going to places they ordinarily wouldn't have gone. He also said he had to put counter-insurgency efforts on hold due to the search and that it hurt partnerships with the Afghan government and Afghan forces. Bergdahl spent five years as a Taliban captive until he was exchanged last year for five Taliban commanders who were being held at the U.S. detention center at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The prisoner swap was sharply criticized by many Republicans and some Democrats, who said it was politically motivated and counter to the U.S. policy against negotiating with terrorists. □

## 3 Air marshals from Chicago implicated in prostitute scandal

ALICIA A. CALDWELL  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Two federal air marshals have been suspended and a third has resigned amid allegations they hired prostitutes overseas and recorded at least one sexual encounter with a government-issued device.

The investigation of the three, who are from the Chicago field office, is expected to be the subject of a congressional hearing Thursday before the House

Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

A spokeswoman for the panel, M.J. Henshaw, said Federal Air Marshal Service Director Roderick Allison told the committee about the allegations within the last week.

Allison is scheduled to testify about the case before the committee, Rep. Jason Chaffetz. He did not mention the case in written testimony sent to the panel. Rep. Elijah Cummings said Wednesday he remained

concerned about the underlying charges.

"If these allegations are accurate, they are obviously inappropriate for anyone, let alone air marshals charged with securing our skies," Cummings said.

A spokesman for the Transportation Security Administration, which oversees the Federal Air Marshal Service at the Homeland Security Department, said TSA will hold its employees accountable if allegations of criminal behavior or mis-

conduct are substantiated. "Even though constrained from commenting on an active investigation, we can confirm that two of the employees involved have been placed on an indefinite suspension without pay, and the third employee has resigned from the agency," TSA spokesman Bruce Anderson said.

Lawmakers have focused their attention on questionable behavior by federal law enforcement officials since a 2012 prostitution

scandal involving the Secret Service. The former head of the Drug Enforcement Administration also came under fire earlier this year amid allegations that drug agents attended sex parties with prostitutes while stationed overseas.

Former Attorney General Eric Holder advised Justice Department staff in April that it was against department policy to hire prostitutes, regardless of whether the practice was legal in a particular jurisdiction. □

## Clinton to Republicans: Federal shutdown would hurt economy



Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton talks with customers during a campaign stop at the Union Diner, Thursday, Sept. 17, 2015, in Laconia, N.H. (AP Photo/Jim Cole)

KEN THOMAS

LISA LERER

Associated Press

LACONIA, New Hampshire

(AP) — Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton warned congressional Republicans on Thursday that they would endanger the economy if they shut down the federal government in an effort to block funding for a non-profit women's health organization that provides abortions.

Less than a day after the Republican field gathered for their second debate, the Democratic frontrunner seized on promises by some of her would-be rivals to defund Planned Parenthood — even if the move results in a politically treacherous government shutdown.

"I would hope that the Republicans, and particularly the Republicans in the House led by Speaker Boehner, would not put our

country and our economy in peril pursuing some kind of emotionally, politically charged partisan attack," she said in an interview Thursday with CNN. "That would be a very, very unfortunate decision."

Clinton kicked off a three-day swing through New Hampshire as polls show her once-commanding lead over Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders in the state's 2016 primary has evaporated. In a touch of symbolism,

Clinton was joined by Vermont Gov. Peter Shumlin, a Democrat who endorsed her over Sanders.

Clinton's campaign said New Hampshire Gov. Maggie Hassan would endorse Clinton on Friday at an event at the University of New Hampshire.

Clinton said in a statement earlier that by pledging during Wednesday's Republican debate to defund Planned Parenthood, the Republican presidential field had continued what she called a "race to the bottom" on issues of women's health and rights. She said Republicans at the three-hour forum ignored domestic issues like college debt, equal pay and stagnant wages in favor of partisan rhetoric.

"This is just the usual back-

and-forth political attacks, the kind of things you say when you are on a debate stage and don't have much else to say," she said on CNN. "This is just the silly season."

Republican leaders are trying to avoid a politically damaging government shutdown as some conservative lawmakers demand to block federal spending on Planned Parenthood. The showdown over a stopgap bill needed to keep the government open comes after the summer's release of videos secretly recorded by abortion foes who say Planned Parenthood illegally profited from selling tissue from aborted fetuses to medical researchers. Planned Parenthood officials deny the allegations. □

## Fiorina hopes debate bump brings dollars, votes

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — 2016 presidential candidate Carly Fiorina sought Thursday to turn accolades for her standout performance in a Republican debate into support from voters and donors. Her quest will determine whether her breakthrough moment is a turning point in the party primary or simply a footnote.

After a few hours of sleep, Fiorina blitzed through six morning-show interviews, an on-air victory lap of sorts. In early voting states, her small staff fielded calls from local officials eager to pledge their support.

"After last night, I'm with Carly Fiorina," said Bryan Gould, a New Hampshire lawyer who was among those reaching out to Fiorina's team. Gould had also been considering Sens.

Marco Rubio of Florida and Ted Cruz of Texas, or retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson. But he said Fiorina displayed the maturity he's been looking for in a candidate.

Even before Thursday's debate, Fiorina had quietly garnered positive reviews from voters in the early voting states Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina. She's been among the most aggressive Republican candidate in taking on Democratic frontrunner Hillary Rodham Clinton, arguing that if the Republican Party nominates a woman, it would block Clinton from being able to turn her campaign into a history making quest to become the first female president.

Still, she's struggled to translate praise into sup-

port in national polls. Just as concerning for Fiorina has been her lackluster fundraising. Her super political action committee raised about \$3.5 million in the first half of the year, while her campaign raised about half that.

Fiorina's Iowa chairman Christopher Rants spent the day trying to make sure the candidate's upcoming events in the state had space for bigger crowds. "We wanted to hold 150 people, better make sure it holds 200 — maybe more," he said.

For Fiorina, this burst of attention will spur fresh scrutiny of her business record while she ran the technology company Hewlett-Packard — and a deeper examination of her current statements and policy positions. □

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## 5 arraigned in hazing death of New York City college student



Andy Meng, national chapter president for Pi Delta Psi fraternity leaves court, Thursday, Sept. 17, 2015 in Pocono Summit, Pa. The first five of 37 suspects in the death of a New York City freshman fraternity pledge during an initiation ritual appeared Thursday in a Pennsylvania courtroom to face charges.

(Keith R. Stevenson/Pocono Record via AP)

**MICHAEL RUBINKAM**  
Associated Press  
POCONO PINES, Pennsyl-

**vania (AP)** — The first five of 37 suspects in the death of a New York City freshman

fraternity pledge during an initiation ritual appeared Thursday in a Pennsylvania courtroom to face charges.

Fraternity members at Baruch College physically abused Chun "Michael" Deng during a December 2013 initiation ritual in the Pocono Mountains, about 100 miles (160 kilometers) west of New York, then tried to cover it up, police said.

Police say fraternity members blindfolded the 19-year-old Deng, forced him to wear a heavy backpack and then repeatedly tackled him during a hazing ritual known as glass ceiling. Deng fell unconscious and was carried inside the house while fraternity members changed his

clothes and did an Internet search of his symptoms, waiting an hour before taking him to the hospital, according to court documents. He died a day later. Five men, include the former national president of the Pi Delta Psi fraternity, were arraigned on three felony counts related to what police say was an effort to conceal the crime, as well as one misdemeanor charge of hazing. A magistrate released them on \$50,000 unsecured bail and set a preliminary hearing date of Oct. 16.

None of the young men had anything to say to reporters, and only one of their lawyers offered comment.

"Certainly, this is a tragedy. Everybody understands

that," said Todd Greenberg, attorney for Andy Meng, the former fraternity president. "Our deepest sympathy, and the Meng family's deepest sympathy, to the family of Mr. Deng." Greenberg said Meng will plead not guilty.

Deng was the last of several pledges to be hazed that weekend. Police have said he was treated more harshly than the other pledges, though they have not said why he was forced to suffer extra abuse.

A forensic pathologist determined Deng suffered repeated trauma to the head, torso and thighs.

Pi Delta Psi, an Asian-American cultural fraternity, was founded more than 20 years ago at Binghamton University in New York. □

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## 'Big Tony' sentenced to life in prison over 2001 mob hit

**CURT ANDERSON**  
**AP Legal Affairs Writer**  
**FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida (AP)** — Anthony "Big Tony" Moscatiello was sentenced Thursday to life in prison without parole for the mob-connected 2001 slaying of a prominent South Florida businessman during a battle over control of a fleet of gambling ships.

Broward County Circuit Judge Ilona Holmes imposed the sentence after a jury rejected the death sentence sought by prosecutors following more than three hours of deliberation. Holmes said she had little choice but to follow the jury's advice.

Moscatiello, 76, showed no reaction when the jury's decision was announced. He was convicted in July of murder and murder conspiracy in the fatal

shooting of Konstantinos "Gus" Boulis during a dispute over lucrative gambling ships. Trial evidence showed Boulis was shot by a hit man hired by Moscatiello, a reputed member of New York's Gambino crime family once headed by "Teflon Don" John Gotti.

Just before he was sentenced, however, Moscatiello made a short statement to Holmes denying any role in the killing and contending that the hit man identified by prosecutors is not the actual killer. Moscatiello turned in the courtroom to address Boulis nephew Spiro Naos. "I truly am sorry about what happened to Gus, but I assure you I had nothing to do with it," he said.

Naos said in a statement that the verdict and sentence was "fair and just." □



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### US Financial Front:

## America's homebuilding slows in August after hot streak

JOSH BOAK

AP Economics Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)**— Builders broke ground on fewer houses and apartment complexes in August, a possible sign that the housing market may be leveling off after accelerating for much of the year.

Housing starts last month fell 3 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.13 million homes, the Commerce Department said Thursday. Construction activity slowed sharply in the Northeast and Midwest last month, edged downward in the West and climbed in the South.

Still, homebuilding appears much stronger than a year ago, despite figures that can be highly volatile on a monthly basis. Construction slowed in part due to the expiration of tax incentives for developers in New York.

"This is a mere blip on the radar," said Tom Wind, executive vice president of home lending at EverBank. "The housing market's underlying fundamentals remain on pace for continued recovery."

Housing starts have climbed a solid 11.3 percent this year to date. Steady job gains of 2.9 million in the past 12 months are contributing to increased demand from buyers and renters. And as the recovery from the Great Recession has entered its seventh year, residential construction has started to both reflect and fuel broader economic growth. Developers see favorable demographics helping to sustain demand, as approved permits rose 3.5 percent in August to an annual rate of 1.17 million.



A builder works on the site of the Landmark community, a group of condos and townhouses built by Lennar Homes, in Doral, Fla. The Commerce Department reported on U.S. home construction in August on Thursday, Sept. 17, 2015.

(AP Photo/Lynne Sladky)

Confidence among builders is also improving.

The National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo builder sentiment index released Wednesday rose this month to 62, up from 61 in August. The last time

the reading was higher was October 2005 at 68.

New construction has yet to fully satisfy demand, a sign that further building will likely remain profitable.

Only 5.2 months' supply of new homes is listed for sale,

well below the standard level of six months usually seen in a healthy market. This shortage has led to rising prices for new and existing homes.

At the same time, median rental prices are rising annually at 4.2 percent — roughly double the increase in average hourly wages — because of an influx of downsizing baby boomers and millennials entering the job market.

The rental demand is coming in part because the United States will add the equivalent of Illinois' population — 12.9 million people — to the housing market in the next five years, said Robert Hart, chief executive of TruAmerica, a Los Angeles-based firm that renovates and manages apartment buildings.

As younger Americans are

entering the housing market, they're renting longer before buying, held back by student debt and a lack of down payment savings. The share of the country owning homes has tumbled to 63.4 percent, the lowest level in 48 years.

"People are delaying ownership until they're on a more solid ground — personally and professionally," Hart said.

But there are also signs of limits to how far housing activity can expand. The lack of supply has caused prices to shoot up in many of the largest job markets, reducing affordability for potential buyers and renters. And sales at furnishers and building supply stores fell in August after posting gains over the past 12 months, the government reported Tuesday. □

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## Moscow urges US to engage Syria, offers military talks

**V. ISACHENKOV**  
**Associated Press**

**MOSCOW (AP)** — Russia on Thursday strongly urged the United States and its allies to engage the Syrian government as a “partner” in the fight against the Islamic State group, and offered to share any information about its military supplies to Damascus with Washington.

New satellite imagery, meanwhile, showed the recent arrival of Russian tanks, armored personnel carriers and other military equipment at an air base in Syria's coastal Latakia province, confirming reports by U.S., Israeli and other officials of a military buildup.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, speaking after talks with his Turkish counterpart in the Russian Black Sea resort of Sochi, said the U.S.-led coalition fighting the Islamic State group in Syria and Iraq should coordinate its action with Syrian President Bashar Assad's government in conformity with international law.

“There is no reason to evade cooperation with the Syrian leadership, which confronts that terror threat,” Lavrov said. He added that “the Syrian president commands the most capable ground force fighting terrorism.”

“Rejecting such a possibility, ignoring the capability of the Syrian army as a



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, left, and Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu walk ahead of a high-level summit of the Moscow-led Collective Security Treaty Organization, in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. Russian President Vladimir Putin strongly defended Moscow's military assistance to the Syrian government, saying it's impossible to defeat the Islamic State group without cooperating with Damascus.

(AP Photo/Peter Leonard)

partner and ally in the fight against the IS means sacrificing security of the entire region for political or geopolitical intentions and calculations,” he said.

Washington, which has seen Assad as the cause of the Syrian crisis, has been concerned by an ongoing Russian military buildup in Syria and warned Moscow that it could further destabilize the situation. The U.S. said that Russia has ferried equipment, supplies and military personnel to Syria with the apparent goal of setting up an air base near the coastal town of Latakia, a stronghold of the Syrian president.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, who spoke with Lavrov three times this month to discuss the Russian action, said Lavrov offered Tuesday to have military-to-military talks and meetings

on the situation in Syria. Kerry suggested that he favored such consultations, noting that the U.S. wants a clear picture of Russia's intentions.

The satellite imagery provided by AllSource Analysis, a commercial satellite intelligence firm, confirmed a buildup in Latakia. The images show six main battle tanks, 26 armored personnel carriers, and recently deployed helicopters and artillery battery guns. The equipment apparently arrived between September 4 and 15.

The imagery also confirms new and extensive construction, including a new taxiway being built at the air base inside the Basel Assad International Airport — also known by its old name Hemeimeem airport — possibly in preparation for Russian troop arrivals.

The airport, named after the president's brother, who died in a car accident in 1994, lies about 25 kilometers (15 miles) south of Latakia city. It is the only functioning airport in the country besides the international airport in Damascus, and is therefore of great importance to the government.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and other officials say that Moscow has supplied weapons to Syria and sent military personnel to train its military to fight the Islamic State. They wouldn't provide any numbers or other details.

Putin also seemed to keep the door open for a broader role in Syria. Asked earlier this month if Russia could send troops into Syria to help fight the IS, he answered that “we are looking at various options.” □



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## AP: Greek election campaign underwhelming most voters

EREK GATOPoulos

ELENA BECATOROS

Associated Press

**ATHENS, Greece (AP)** — Cheered by thousands in a central Athens square, Alexis Tsipras made a promise that proved impossible to keep. A vote for his left-wing Syriza party would change Europe and punish the creditors who had imposed economic austerity on Greece.

That was eight months ago.

Prominent party members who deserted Syriza stood in the same spot Tuesday night, lining up to attack Tsipras and his short-lived government as Greeks head back to the polls Sunday with political parties fractured by the weight of a massive new international bailout that aims to prevent a potentially catastrophic default and Greece being forced out of the eurozone.

Tuesday's crowd at Omonoia Square was much smaller and the rhetoric more bitter.

"A small group in the (government) leadership has surrendered and humiliated us," said Panagiotis Lafazanis, a former Syriza hardliner who served as Tsipras' energy minister and formed a breakaway party after Tsipras reached an agreement with eurozone countries to continue receiving rescue funding in exchange for harsh new spending cuts.

"Some people have turned the euro into religion. But it has become a dictatorship," said Lafazanis, who advocates Greece leaving Europe's joint currency.

Unlike the January election that brought Tsipras to power and a hastily called July referendum in which voters soundly rejected creditor reform proposals — only to see Tsipras' government later agree to them — Sunday's poll has drawn little enthusiasm. It is the third time this year that Greeks will be voting, with the economy still in dire straits, a quarter of workers jobless and capital controls limiting cash access to savings to 420 euros (\$470) per week.

"What's the point of going back to the voting booth all the time? Nobody trusts anyone anymore," said 49-year-old Varvara Michaliarakou, who trained as a nursery school teacher and works as a nanny. She has voted for four different parties since 2009 and still hasn't decided who to back on Sept. 20.

"They all lied to us and nothing has changed — it's still terrible," she said.

It is the significant percentage of undecided voters that the parties are vying to woo in the last few days of campaigning.

Opinion polls indicate a race too close to call, with Tsipras struggling to maintain the narrowest of leads over his main opponent, center-right New Democracy leader Evangelos Meimarakis.

Late Thursday, about 5,000 supporters — a low number by Greek standards — gathered to attend Meimarakis' main election rally in Athens. □



People push through a police line in Tovarnik, Croatia, Thursday, Sept. 17, 2015. Hundreds of migrants have pushed through police lines in the eastern Croatian town of Tovarnik, with people trampling and falling on each other amid the chaos, waiting to board trains and buses for transport to refugee centers.

(AP Photo/Marko Drobnjakovic)

## Croatia army on alert over migrant influx

D. STOJANOVIC

VANESSA GERA

Associated Press

**BATINA, Croatia (AP)** —

Croatian leaders asked the army to be on alert after chaos erupted Thursday at the border with Serbia, where thousands of migrants and refugees have poured into the country. Some trampled over each other in a rush to get on limited buses and trains, causing dozens of injuries amid the mayhem.

The huge masses descended on Croatia after Hungary took tough measures to stop migrants entering its southern border. As Hungarian officials hailed their success in stopping the massive influx and moved ahead with plans to build yet more border fences, leaders in Croatia pleaded that their country was at full capacity and unable to cope with the sudden flow. Interior Minister Ranko Ostojic told reporters he had a message for migrants: Don't try to go to Western Europe through his country.

"Don't come here anymore. Stay in refugee centers in Serbia and Macedonia and Greece," Ostojic said. "This is not the road to Europe. Buses can't take you there. It's a lie."

Hungary sealed off its border with Serbia this week with a razor-wire fence and began arresting people who tried to cross. Police used tear gas, batons and water cannons on those who tried to push open a border gate on Wednesday. Croatia represents a longer and more difficult route into Europe, but those fleeing violence in their homelands had little choice. By late Thursday a total of 9,200 people had entered the country in the past two days, police said, and already groups were trying to cross into neighboring Slovenia and Hungary. Yet Slovenia, like Hungary, appeared unwilling to take in the inflow. Slovenian police said those freshly arrived from Croatia would simply be sent back there, according to the

country's state news agency. Croatian President Kolinda Grabar Kitarovic asked the country's military to be on higher alert and be ready to act if needed to protect the border from the migrants. The country's interior minister meanwhile suggested that his country may close its borders if faced with thousands more newcomers.

After bus trips through Serbia, many migrants crossed fields on foot to enter Croatia, where dozens of police at first directed them to trains and buses heading to refugee centers. Authorities warned them to avoid walking in areas along the Serbian border that were still being demined from the country's 1991-95 war. Soon matters got out of control. Hundreds of angry asylum seekers pushed through police lines in the eastern Croatian town of Tovarnik after waiting for hours in the hot sun, demanding to be allowed to move on toward Western Europe. □



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## Syrian army stages airstrikes on IS-held Raqqa: activists

**BEIRUT (AP)** — Syrian warplanes carried out a wave of airstrikes in the Islamic State-held city of Raqqa, activists said, in rare attacks that coincided with a visit by a U.N. envoy to Damascus on Thursday.

In the country's south, helicopters dropped barrel bombs that struck a busy market place, killing at least 17 people. An activist in

the rebel-held Bosra Sham said the explosives were dropped as the market was packed with shoppers and people buying necessities for children who go back to school this week.

Speaking on condition of anonymity for security reasons, he said around 24 people were killed and many others wounded, with many of them in criti-

cal condition. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights put the death toll at 17. Such discrepancies are common in the aftermath of large bombings.

Two Syria-based groups as well as the Observatory said earlier Thursday that warplanes carried out at least 12 airstrikes across the IS-held city of Raqqa in

northern Syria. They reported casualties but had no specific figures. It was not immediately clear what was hit.

The city is the self-declared capital of the Islamic State group's self-styled caliphate, which includes large parts of Syria and Iraq. The region is often targeted by a U.S.-led coalition fighting IS from the air. The Syrians

have occasionally targeted the city as well, but Syrian government airstrikes typically concentrate on opposition-held areas of the country.

Syrian President Bashar Assad reiterated in an interview with Russian media aired Wednesday that the U.S. refuses to coordinate with his government in the fight against IS. □

## Saudi-led coalition pounds Yemen rebels near central city

**ADAM SCHRECK**  
Associated Press

**MARIB, Yemen (AP)** — The Saudi-led coalition targeting Yemen's Shiite rebels pounded the insurgents' positions Thursday with heavy artillery fire on the outskirts of the central city of Marib, part of their push to retake the capital, Sanaa.

The heavy bombardment came hours after the rebels, known as Houthis, aired footage on their satellite television channel purporting to show a Saudi soldier held as a prisoner of war. A top al-Qaida leader in Yemen meanwhile praised the campaign against the Houthis and called for Islamic rule in the Arab world's poorest country.



**Yemeni fighters loyal to President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi sit in the back of a pickup truck in the countryside outside Marib, Yemen, Thursday, Sept. 17, 2015. The Saudi-led coalition targeting Yemen's Shiite rebels pounded the insurgents' positions Thursday with heavy artillery fire on the outskirts of the central city of Marib, part of their push to retake the capital, Sanaa.**

(AP Photo/Adam Schreck)

The dull thud of artillery fire rumbled across Marib but its residents, many carrying

Kalashnikov assault rifles, appeared unperturbed by the nearby fighting. Shops

downtown were open for business, and residents crowded a market to buy qat leaves, a mild narcotic widely consumed in Yemen.

"As you see, there are no clashes, mostly just shelling ... from far away," deputy governor Abdul Rab Ali said Thursday.

Marib is the capital of the largely desert province of the same name east of the capital. Authorities say the coalition's operations in the area include targeting Houthi positions near the Marib dam and the town of Sirwah, about 40 kilometers (25 miles) west on the road to Sanaa.

The provincial capital is controlled by forces loyal to exiled President Abed

Rabbo Mansour Hadi. Ali said 80 percent of the province is controlled by pro-Hadi forces, while the Houthis and their allies control the rest.

Military vehicles used by forces from the United Arab Emirates, a central member of the coalition, made their way Thursday along a two-lane road between Marib and a sprawling military base further east.

The war in Yemen pits the Saudi-led coalition against Iranian-backed Houthis and troops loyal to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh. Others opposing the Houthis include southern separatists, local and tribal militias, Sunni Islamic militants and troops loyal to Hadi. □

## IS says it's behind 2 Baghdad suicide blasts that killed 21

**SINAN SALAHEDDIN**  
Associated Press

**BAGHDAD (AP)** — Two suicide bombers targeted Iraqi police checkpoints in commercial areas in central Baghdad during rush hour Thursday, killing at least 21 people, officials said.

The Islamic State group swiftly claimed responsibility for the blasts.

Both attacks were carried out by bombers on foot, wearing explosives-laden

vests, two police officers said. One bomber struck in Baghdad's Bab al-Sharji area, killing nine civilians and three police officers there. Forty-five people were wounded in that explosion.

The second bomber hit in al-Wathba Square, killing nine people, including four policemen, and wounding 31.

Two medical officials confirmed the casualty figures. All officials spoke on condi-

tion of anonymity because they are not authorized to talk to reporters.

Iraq is going through its worst crisis since the 2011 withdrawal of U.S. troops. The Islamic State group controls large swaths of the country's north and west after capturing Iraq's second-largest city of Mosul and the majority of the western Anbar province last year.

In a statement posted on its Twitter accounts, the Islam-

ic State group claimed responsibility for the attacks, saying it targeted police and Shiite paramilitary forces.

The Associated Press could not immediately verify the authenticity of the statement, but its language and phrasing is consistent with past IS claims of responsibility.

Following its blitz last year, the IS — which splintered off from Iraq's al-Qaida branch — now holds about

a third of Iraq and neighboring Syria in its self-declared "caliphate."

Since the emergence of IS extremists, Baghdad has seen near-daily attacks, with roadside bombs, suicide blasts and assassinations targeting Iraqi forces and government officials, with significant casualties among the civilian population.

The violence has killed hundreds and displaced tens of thousands of Iraqis. □



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## Chile confronts quake with fortified buildings, alerts

LUIS HENAO

EVA VERGARA

Associated Press

**COQUIMBO, Chile (AP)**

Parts of this port city were a disaster zone Thursday after an 8.3-magnitude quake hit off the coast, killing at least 11 people and likely causing billions in damage. Overturned cars and splintered boats sat mud next to furniture, toppled adobe homes and fishing nets tangled in trees.

The most stunning thing about Wednesday night's earthquake, however, may be the relatively low amount of havoc caused by such a powerful shake. While the quake led more than 1 million to evacuate coastal areas and no doubt caused much anxiety, seismologists said Chile's heavy investment in structural reinforcement of buildings and constant refinement of its tsunami alert system helped prevent what would have been a catastrophe in less prepared nations.

"Chile has good codes and good compliance, which together have reduced the vulnerabilities of their building stock over the decades," said Richard Olson, director of Florida International University's Extreme Events Institute. "I would rather be there in one of their cities than in many other countries in an earthquake."

Living in one of the world's most seismically active places, the Andean nation's 17 million people have little choice but become experts in earthquakes. The strongest earthquake ever recorded happened in Chile: a magnitude-9.5 tremor in 1960 that killed more than 5,000 people.

After another major earthquake in 1985, authorities

began implementing strict construction codes similar to those used for highly seismic regions in the United States such as California, said Kishor Jaiswal, a civil engineer with the U.S. Geo-

the horizontal jolts that an earthquake inflicts. Building methods in many other developing countries can withstand gravity and wind but have limited resistance against very strong earth-

kilometers) north-northwest of Santiago.

The quake was 7.4 miles (12 kilometers) below the surface.

It lasted a nerve-shattering three minutes, swayed



Fish market owners wait for help from the city to clean up what was once their restaurant after an earthquake-triggered tsunami hit the coastal town of Coquimbo, Chile, Thursday, Sept. 17, 2015. Several coastal towns were flooded from small tsunami waves set off by late Wednesday's quake, which shook the Earth so strongly that rumbles were felt across South America.

(AP Photo/Luis Hidalgo)

logical Survey.

Most buildings in urban areas of Chile are designed to withstand both the vertical forces of gravity and

quakes.

Wednesday's quake struck just offshore in the Pacific at 7:54 p.m. and was centered about 141 miles (228

buildings in the capital, Santiago, and prompting authorities to issue a tsunami warning for the country's entire Pacific coast. □

### Argentina:

## Government outraged as court orders new election

**BUENOS AIRES, Argentina**

(AP)—A court has annulled a gubernatorial election in a stronghold of Argentina's governing party, outraging officials of President Cristina Fernandez's administration and giving a boost to opponents ahead of the Oct. 25 presidential contest.

A local court in Tucuman province ruled Wednesday that irregularities were so widespread in the Aug. 23 vote that new elections are

necessary. Dozens of ballot boxes were burned and errors were found in the vote count that pro-government candidate Juan Manzur winning by 52 percent to 40 percent over his nearest rival, Jose Cano.

It's the first time a court has thrown out a major election in Argentina since a dictatorship ended in 1983 and it gave a victory to opposition parties who have tried to make irregularities in the local vote a campaign is-

sue in presidential election. Opposition vice presidential candidate Gabriela Michetti said Thursday the ruling was a turning point because it "puts an end to attempts at fraud in Argentina."

But the president's Cabinet chief, Anibal Fernandez, called the decision "a judicial coup d'etat" and suggested the national government might intervene to take political control the province. □

**Honduran activist kills lawmaker for official in scandal**

FREDDY CUEVAS

Associated Press

**TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras**

(AP)—An anti-corruption activist in Honduras who also reportedly suffers from a mental illness confessed to stabbing to death a lawyer representing an official charged in the fraudulent sales of medicines to the government, police said Thursday.

The crime may have involved a combination of mental illness and political motives, according to statements by the suspect and police.

National police spokesman Leonel Saucedo said Thursday that Rigoberto Andres Paredes killed Eduardo Montes Manzano in the stairwell of an office building where both worked.

"Paredes confessed that he killed the lawyer Montes because he defended corrupt people," Saucedo said.

He also said the 28-year-old Paredes claimed he suffered from a mental illness.

Montes Manzano represented Congress vice president Lena Gutierrez, who is charged in a scheme to sell overpriced and in some cases defective medicines to the government.

The 44-year-old lawyer was leaving his office on the 15th floor of the building in Tegucigalpa on Wednesday when a man stabbed him at least 15 times.

Following his arrest, Paredes told reporters, "those people are making a (mess) of this country, they are making a (mess) of peoples' lives."

He said he had friends who lost family members in the public health system. □

# Cubans hope Pope visit will accelerate warming with US

**M. WEISSENSTEIN**

**N. WINFIELD**

**Associated Press**

**HAVANA (AP)** — Seventeen years ago, a newly named Argentine archbishop laid out his thoughts on the meaning of a papal visit to Cuba.

"Through the presence, the voice and the prophetic mission of the pope, the church offers a path forward to peace, justice and true liberty," Jorge Mario Bergoglio wrote. "Not everything will be the same after he leaves."

Millions of Cubans hope those words written about John Paul II's 1998 trip to Cuba prove true when their author, now Pope Francis, flies into Havana on Saturday.

Across the island, Cubans are excitedly looking at the pope's 10-day trip to Cuba and the United States through the lens of his role as the mediator of detente between the two countries. Many say they expect the visit to help transform the diplomatic warming from a phase of abstract political negotiation into real benefits for the Cuban people. "The pope achieved the re-establishment of relations between the two countries," said Miguel Marcelino.

no, a member of a worker-owned gardening services cooperative. "A big part of why he's coming is so that there's new momentum in that relationship."

In a series of interviews

"I've never been to a Mass. I don't know what that is," motorcycle taxi driver Jose Manuel Echevarria said as he waited for a friend to return with an axle to replace one snapped by one of

varria said of Francis. "It's obvious, no? He's not going for any other reason." Vatican officials are cautioning that the pope's mission is pastoral, not political, saying people should ex-



Tourists riding an American classic car are driven past a billboard promoting a welcoming message for Pope Francis, in Havana, Cuba. Francis will visit Cuba from Sept. 19-22, before arriving in the United States, making him the third pontiff to visit the island nation.

(AP Photo/Desmond Boylan)

across Havana this week, people almost universally said they would be at Francis' Mass in the Plaza of the Revolution on Sunday. Virtually none said they would attend because of personal faith.

Havana's many deep potholes. He's going to the plaza to watch an event that he expects to have strong historical significance.

"He's coming to Havana and then he's going from Havana to the U.S.," Eche-

pect no explicit diplomatic message. But some long-time observers of Francis said it is clear he sees the visit as many Cubans do — as the second stage of his role in midwifing normal relations between Washington and Havana.

ton and Havana.

"Francis won't explicitly be political at all when he's here, but everything he does will be profoundly political in its implications," said Austen Ivereigh, author of "The Great Reformer: Francis and the Making of a Radical Pope."

The pope feels the half century of hostility between the U.S. and Cuba polarized the politics of Latin America, forcing people to choose between Washington's and Havana's visions for the region, Ivereigh said. While the pope values the social achievements of Cuba's revolution such as free universal health care and education, he has staunchly criticized its decades of repression. He looks to healing the rift between the U.S. and Cuba as a way of steering the island on a path toward a new system that both cares for the needy and provides liberty while avoiding the excesses of capitalism, providing a potential model for the region. "He has a very ambitious vision for Latin America, and Cuba plays a key role in that," Ivereigh said. Francis has downplayed his role in the detente, saying he did "only little things," but both Presidents Barack Obama and Raul Castro praised the pope in their Dec. 17, 2014, speeches announcing the deal. Obama noted the importance of Francis' "personal appeal" to both leaders in a pair of secret letters at a critical stage in the 18 months of secret negotiations. The Vatican also hosted the final meeting last October at which the two sides finalized the deal. Francis has never been to Cuba but has a veritable Cuban brain trust in the Vatican.

The head of the Vatican's congregation for priests, Cardinal Beniamino Stella, and the No. 3 in the Vatican secretariat of state, Monsignor Angelo Becciu, both served as ambassadors to Cuba during a period when the church was finding new freedom to operate on the island. □

## Opposition to Puerto Rico reform plan grows amid crisis

**DANICA COTO**

**Associated Press**

**SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico**

**(AP)** — The Puerto Rican government's fiscal reform plan is coming under increased scrutiny amid growing concerns that it does not have legislative support and that some measures are too austere and could push the U.S. territory into a deeper economic crisis.

Gov. Alejandro Garcia Padilla met Wednesday with members of President Barack Obama's Cabinet while his administration prepares to negotiate with bondholders over a \$72 billion debt that he has said is unpayable and needs restructuring. Other top Puerto Rico officials traveled to New York and

met with restructuring experts to prepare for the negotiations.

Economists say that if no agreements are reached and if some of the plan's measures are not implemented, the island's government could face a severe liquidity crunch in the next three months that could force it to either partially close or default on major bond payments. "The hurricane is upon us," said Mike Soto, founder of the Center for the New Economy, a Puerto Rico-based think tank that released an analysis of the plan Wednesday.

"This is going to hit us now, and in a very severe way soon."

Among provisions in the five-year plan released last

week are salary freezes for government employees, creation of a fiscal control board and deep budget cuts for municipalities and the University of Puerto Rico. The plan's authors warned that even if it was fully implemented, the government would still face a \$14 billion financing gap and be unable to meet debt payments as scheduled.

But opposition has risen. Representatives of bondholders have questioned the validity of the government's numbers, saying officials are presenting a worst-case scenario that they believe will not materialize. A Virginia-based group called Main Street Bondholders accused the governor on Wednesday

of distorting the island's financial situation. "Central to (his) debt avoidance strategy is the very suspect claim that Puerto Rico very simply cannot pay its debts," the group said in a statement.

Hundreds of government workers held a protest late last week to denounce the proposal.

And legislators from both the opposition and the governor's own party said this week that the plan does not have the votes needed to be adopted, especially provisions that call for slashing the budget of the island's largest public university by one-third and imposing a 10-year waiver from future minimum wage increases for young workers. □

# LOCAL Aruba TODAY

## At 'Rondom Oranje' at MartiniPlaza in Groningen: Commissioner of the King Receives a Painting of Aruban Artist

**ORANJESTAD/GRONINGEN**

– Friday, September 11, the Commissioner of the King, drs. Max van den Berg, realized the opening of the exhibition 'Rondom Oranje' (Around Orange), for invited guests, in the theater lounge of MartiniPlaza, related to the closure of the celebration of 200 years of our Kingdom.

Before his opening speech, mr. van den Berg received a painting from the president of Art Promotion International foundation in behalf of API and the eleven participating artists.

The commissionary agreed that the painting of king Willem Alexander from the participant from Aruba, Gustave Nouel, also curator and artistic advisor for this exhibition, will form part of the art collection of the County Hall of Groningen. As part of the opening performance, a painting of the young professional painter Jannes Koetsier, from Groningen, also inspired by the King, was revealed.

Next the curator presented the Commissioner, together with the Minister Plenipotentiary of St. Martin, mrs. Josiane Fleming-Artsen to the artists present that could give an explanation of their art.

All parts of the Kingdom were present, as the participating artists come from



all parts of our Kingdom, five from the tropical part in the Caribbean and five from Holland, the cold part in Europe.

Also workshops of the participating artists will be offered at Martiniplaza.

The artworks inspired by the factor 'Orange' that unites - in every sense of the word - symbolize the union between people of different ancestry and nature in the Dutch Kingdom. 'Rondom Oranje' has a special character with di-

verse artworks from Jabu Arnell (Sint Maarten/Amsterdam), Bikkel (Curacao/Rotterdam), Fokke P. de Boer (Apeldoorn), Ewoud Broeksma (Groningen), Florian Cats (Leeuwarden), Armando Goedgedrag (Aruba), Jannes Koetsier (Groningen), Jan Kruize (Groningen), Gustave Nouel (Aruba/Deventer) en Hellouisa Maria (Bonaire/Assendelft).

Besides the art of these artists there is once more a guest-artist, this time Maya Wildevuur - a fa-



mous Dutch artist living in a castle in Midwolda – who showed some paintings related to the theme. For the beautiful picture by Armando Goedgedrag, inspired by water (main theme of our King), a picture titled 'North Shore Emerald' was handed to the manager Martin Hoek by the secretary of API, miss. Helen Francis.

'Rondom Oranje' can be admired from September 14 to October 30 in the theater lounge of MartiniPlaza in Groningen. For more information and/or opening times check: <https://www.200jaarkoninkrijk.nl/content/expositie-rondom-oranje>, or [www.martiniplaza.nl/evenementen](http://www.martiniplaza.nl/evenementen). □



[www.200jaarkoninkrijk.nl/content/expositie-rondom-oranje](https://www.200jaarkoninkrijk.nl/content/expositie-rondom-oranje), or [www.martiniplaza.nl/evenementen](http://www.martiniplaza.nl/evenementen). □

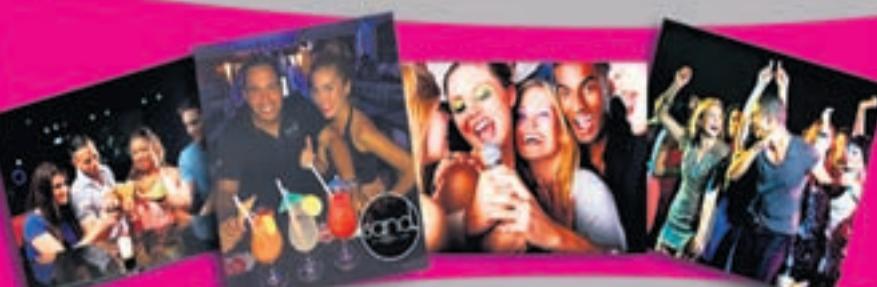


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## Loyal Visitors Honored at the Divi Village Beach Resort



**EAGLE BEACH** - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a group of loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba at the Divi Village Beach Resort as Distinguished Visitors and Ambassadors of Goodwill. The symbolic honorary titles are presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 and 20-to-34 consecutive years.

The honorees were Mr. Dan and Mrs. Buffy Dumont and their son Ben Dumont from Monmouth, Maine, and Mr. John Trues-

dale from Danvers, Massachusetts. All the honorees are loyal members of the Divi Village Beach Resort and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the weather, the beaches and the restaurants.

They say being on Aruba and staying at the Divi Village Beach Resort is like being in heaven. The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Ms. Gloria Defoe and Family Ham, friends of the honorees.□





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## Rothenhoefer Family Honored by Aruba Tourism Authority



**EAGLE BEACH** - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice couple whom are loyal and friendly Visitor of Aruba, as Distinguished Visitor at the Costa Linda Beach Resort. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 consecutive years. The honorees were Mr. John and Mrs. Charlotte Rothenhoefer of Ellicott City, Maryland. John and Charlotte have visited Aruba in total 23 years in the last decades, and this year they completed 10

consecutive years of visit to Aruba. The couple is loyal members of the Costa Linda and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the weather, the beaches and the restaurants. They say Aruba feels like a second home, the people are like family to them and Costa Linda is their 'home away from home.'

The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Mrs. Gloria Janga and Mrs. Miriam Rodriguez representing the Costa Linda Beach Resort.□



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## Loyal Visitors Honored at the La Cabana Beach Resort



**EAGLE BEACH** - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a group of loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba at the La Cabana Beach Resort as Emerald Ambassadors and Distinguished Visitors. The symbolic honorary titles are presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of

appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 and 35-or-more consecutive years.

The honorees were Mr. Mark and Mrs. Janice Haynes of New Hampshire as Distinguished Visitors, and Mr. Ricardo and Mrs. Elsa Rivero of Valencia, Venezuela as Emerald Ambassadors.

The Aruba Tourism Au-

thority is proud to present the commemorative Emerald Coin and Emerald Certificate to Mr. Ricardo and Mrs. Elsa, representing 35 years of continued visits to our Island.

All the honorees are loyal members of the La Cabana Beach Resort and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the

weather, the beaches and the restaurants. They say being on Aruba and staying at the La Cabana Beach Resort is like being in paradise.

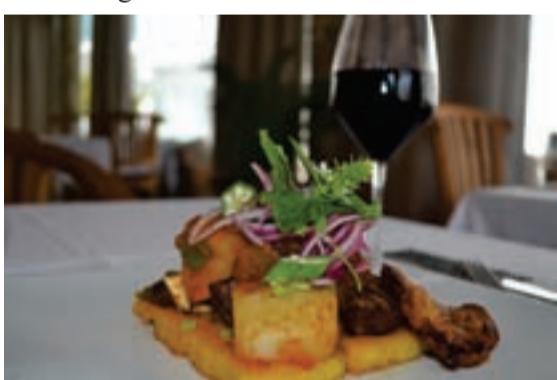
The certificates were presented by Ms. Darline S. de Cuba representing Aruba Tourism Authority together with Sharine Charles of the La Cabana Beach Resort & Casino. □

### THE MILL RESORTS & SUITE WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN THE "EAT LOCAL ARUBA RESTAURANT WEEK!!!!

It is with great Pleasure and Enthusiasm, that The Mill Resort & Suite is participating in this year Eat Local Aruba Restaurant Week, organized by ATA!!

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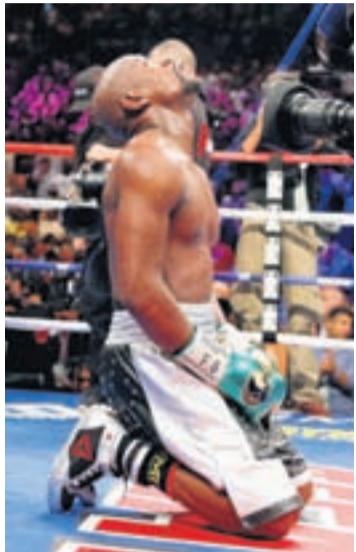


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# SPORTS

## Aruba TODAY



Floyd Mayweather Jr. kneels at the end of his welterweight title fight against Andre Berto, Saturday, Sept. 12, 2015, in Las Vegas.

### Mayweather-Berto PPV comes in well under 1M sales

By Kevin Iole

Floyd Mayweather's Sept. 12 bout with Andre Berto at the MGM Grand Garden sold roughly 400,000 pay-per-view units, a source told Yahoo Sports. That number, the source said, includes about 145,000 sales from DirecTV, which is almost always the first distributor to report a figure. Another source close to the promotion of the fight said the figure was higher and estimated it between 500,000 and 550,000.

In any event, the result will be the lowest figure since Mayweather sold 325,000 while fighting Carlos Baldomir on HBO Pay-Per-View in 2006.

Continued on page 22

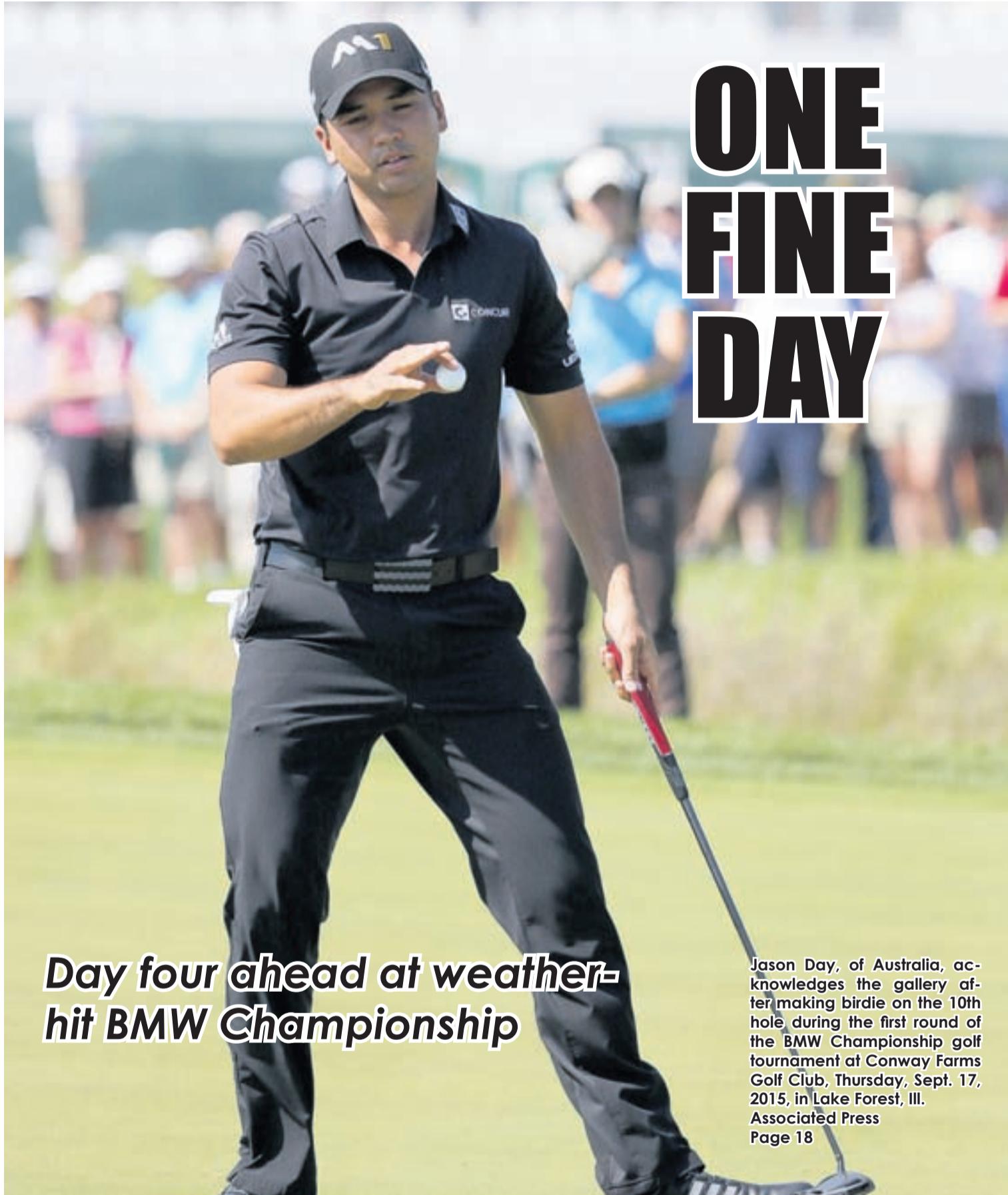
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# ONE FINE DAY



**Day four ahead at weather-hit BMW Championship**

Jason Day, of Australia, acknowledges the gallery after making birdie on the 10th hole during the first round of the BMW Championship golf tournament at Conway Farms Golf Club, Thursday, Sept. 17, 2015, in Lake Forest, Ill.

Associated Press  
Page 18

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# Jason Day builds big lead at BMW Championship

**DOUG FERGUSON**  
AP Golf Writer

**LAKE FOREST, Ill. (AP)** — Jason Day already had seven birdies on his card and one eagle, courtesy of a shot he holed from 79 yards out of a fairway bunker. He was walking across a bridge Thursday at the BMW Championship when someone asked him during an exchange of greetings, "How are you doing, Jason?"

Jordan Spieth was a few steps ahead of Day, and he could hardly contain his laughter.

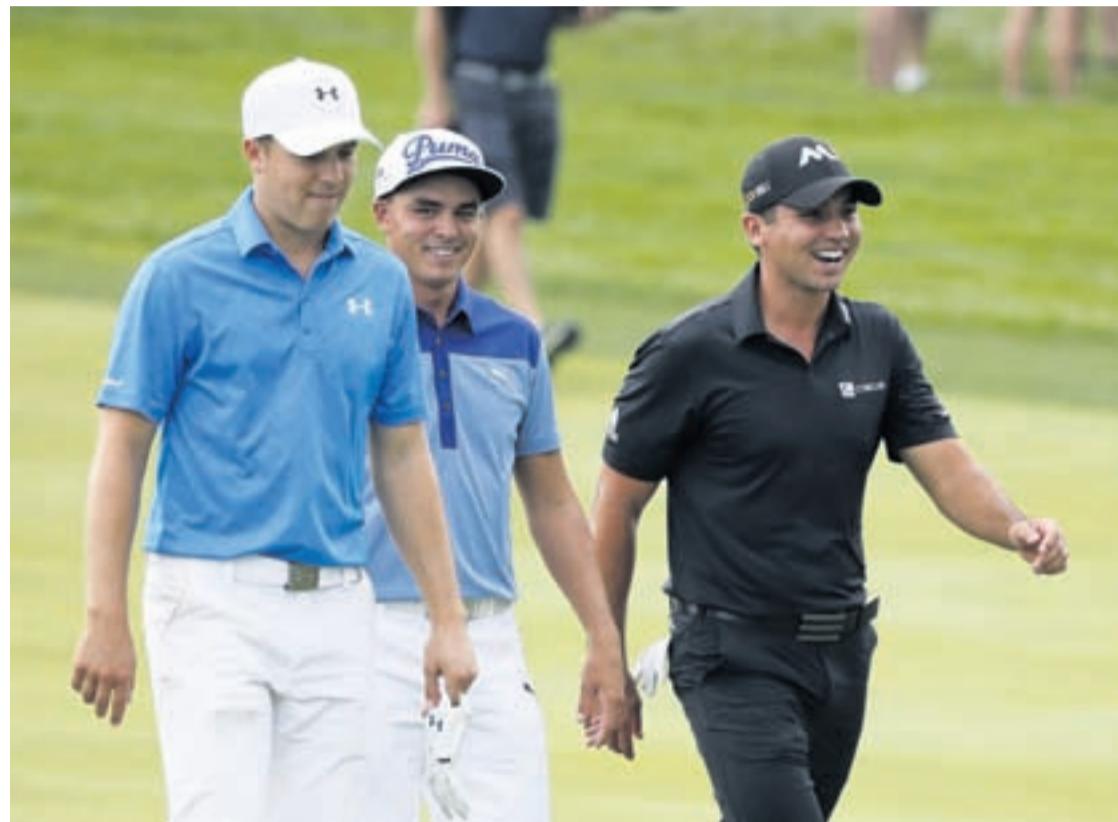
"Really? You're asking him THAT?" Spieth said.

Day has never been better. He powered his way around Conway Farms and was at 10-under par through 17 holes when thunderstorms halted the opening round. His final shot was a 346-yard tee shot with the wind at his back that settled in light rough and left him 44 yards away from a front pin on No. 9.

Day has to hole that Friday morning for a 59. And he didn't even know it.

"I thought it was a par 72, so I'm sitting there going, '10 under, there's no chance at all I can get it.' But if it goes in, it goes in," he said. "Right now, I'm just trying to play the best I can. I'm just trying to get off to a good start."

He is playing better than



**Jordan Spieth, left, Rickie Fowler, center and Jason Day of Australia, walk to mark their balls on the ninth fairway after play was suspended for severe weather during the first round of the BMW Championship golf tournament at Conway Farms Golf Club, Thursday, Sept. 17, 2015, in Lake Forest, Ill.**

anyone at the moment, a winner in three of his last five tournaments, including his first major. A victory in the third FedEx Cup playoff event would send him to No. 1 in the world for the first time, and not many would argue with that. Day was four shots ahead of PGA Tour rookie Daniel Berger, who had a 6-under 65. Brendon Todd had a 66. Only 17 players completed the opening round. Spieth finally got on track. Coming off consecutive missed cuts that eventually

cost him the No. 1 ranking, he had a hole-in-one on the par-3 second hole to end a peculiar drought. It was the first time in 72 holes that he was under par during any round in a tournament. And then he chipped in from 80 feet for birdie on the next hole. Little good that did him. Walking to the fourth tee, Spieth pointed behind him at Day and said, "He's still the clinic. I've barely got the (honors on the) tee." Spieth made a hole-in-one and Day poured in a

**Associated Press**

20-foot birdie putt. Spieth chipped in for birdie on No. 3 and Day matched it with a 5-foot birdie. The play was spectacular.

The 27-year-old Australian was as sharp as he has been all year.

He is 89-under par dating to the British Open. Day is playing so well that he said every round feels like practice. "No matter what you do, even if you hit a bad shot, it's going to be all right," Day said. "That's kind of the way it feels. It's hard to explain because I'm just out there and I'm not really paying attention to the score and I'm hitting it down the middle and hitting it on the greens and holing putts."

It was the best show of the PGA Tour's postseason, even for a Thursday that was interrupted by a dark and stormy sky north of Chicago. The group of Day,

Spieth and Rickie Fowler — Nos. 1-2-3 in the FedEx Cup — attracted an enormous gallery and the players delivered one great shot after another.

Fowler, coming off his third win of the year at the TPC Boston two weeks ago, must have felt like a third-wheel at the end, though he produced four straight birdies on his front nine. When they made the turn, the hits kept coming.

Day's shot from 79 yards in a fairway bunker on No. 1 landed beyond the hole and spun back a few feet for eagle to get him to 6 under. On the par-3 second, Spieth's tee shot just covered the bunker, hopped once in the first cut and rolled into the cup for an ace, the second of his PGA Tour career. Day holed a 20-foot birdie putt. Both made birdie on No. 3, Spieth with his long chip-in and Day with a wedge to 5 feet. Spieth found his groove with a shot into 4 feet on No. 3 for another birdie.

Day's power was evident on his final few holes.

He tried to drive the green on the 352-yard 17th hole and landed in the collar, 60 feet away. He nearly holed the chip for eagle. On the 600-yard eighth hole into a strengthening wind, he hit his drive 305 yards and then powered a 3-wood high and into the wind. It landed just short of the green, 30 feet from the hole, and he nearly chipped that one in for eagle.

Day gets one more try for an eagle when he gets back Friday morning, a 44-yard pitch for a shot at 59 to tie the course record Jim Furyk set two years ago. The way things are going, it's hard to rule him out. □

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## Phoenix's Griner named WNBA defensive player of year

**DOUG FEINBERG**  
**AP Basketball Writer**

Phoenix Mercury center Brittney Griner won the WNBA defensive player of the year award for the second straight season, the league announced Thursday.

The 6-foot-8 (2.03-meter) star became the first player in league history to average at least four blocks a game, with 105 in just 26 contests. She was suspended for the first seven games of the season following a domestic violence arrest.

"This award means a lot to me because our team defense puts us in a good position to win games," Griner said. "If I'm blocking shots or changing shots or even preventing players from taking shots, I'm helping the team and we are likely to win when our defense is playing

well."

Griner received 33 of the 39 first place votes from a national panel of writers and broadcasters. She becomes the sixth player to win the award in multiple seasons. Tamika Catchings won it five times and Sheryl Swoopes three.

Bill Laimbeer was honored Thursday night as the WNBA's coach of the year.

He guided New York to a club-record 23 wins and the No. 1 overall seed in the playoffs for the first time. It's the second time in his career that Laimbeer earned the award, also winning in 2003 when he was coaching Detroit.

Laimbeer is the fourth coach to win the award at least twice. Van Chancellor and Mike Thibault have won it three times and Dan Hughes twice. □

In this July 25, 2015, file photo, West's Brittney Griner, right, of the Phoenix Mercury, blocks a shot by East's Alex Bentley, left, of the Connecticut Sun, during the first half of the WNBA All-Star basketball game in Uncasville, Conn.

Associated Press



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## Favre, Owens, Faneca among 1st-year nominees

CANTON, Ohio (AP) — Brett Favre is back in the news — no, he's not attempting another comeback.

Favre was among the 108 nominees for the Pro Football Hall of Fame class of 2016 announced Wednesday night. The NFL's career leader in nearly every passing category when he retired after the 2010 season and winner of the 1997 Super Bowl with Green Bay, Favre leads a strong list of first-time nominees.

That group includes Terrell Owens, one of the league's most prolific and dynamic receivers for most of his 15 pro seasons, and Alan Faneca, an elite blocker who made six All-Pro teams at guard in his 13 seasons.

Other first-year-eligible nominees are safety Lawyer Milloy; running backs Brian Westbrook and Clinton Por-



In this Sunday, Sept. 26, 2004 file photo, Green Bay Packers quarterback Brett Favre throws a pass in the first quarter against the Indianapolis Colts in Indianapolis.

Associated Press

tis; place-kicker John Carney; and linebackers Keith Bulluck and Mike Vrabel. Already nominated by the seniors committee are Ken Stabler and Dick Stanfel.

The 2016 contributor candidate is former 49ers owner Edward DeBartolo, Jr. The nominees consist of 93 players (51 on offense, 33 on defense, 9 from special

teams) and 15 coaches. They will be trimmed to 25 semifinalists in November and, from there, to 15 finalists in January.

Voting will culminate Feb. 6, the night before the Super Bowl. While there is no set number for any class, the selection process by-laws provide that between four and eight new members will be selected.

Favre, of course, is the headliner. A three-time league MVP, he retired with 508 touchdown passes, 71,838 yards and 186 victories. He temporarily retired twice late in his career, and finished up with Minnesota for two seasons following 16 in Green Bay and one with the Jets. He spent his rookie season as a backup in Atlanta before being dealt to the Packers, where he helped revitalize the fran-

chise.

Owens played for five franchises, making All-Pro five times. T.O. led the league in TD receptions three times, retiring with 153, and perhaps in feuds with his quarterbacks, many of whom he felt didn't target him enough.

Faneca anchored Pittsburgh's offensive line for a decade, winning a Super Bowl. He also played two years for the Jets and one for Arizona.

Finalists from 2015 who are on the ballot are place-kicker Morten Andersen; coaches Don Coryell, Tony Dungy and Jimmy Johnson; running back Terrell Davis; linebacker-defensive end Kevin Greene; wide receiver Marvin Harrison; safety John Lynch; tackle Orlando Pace; and quarterback Kurt Warner. □

## Lampard scores first MLS goal to lead NYCFC past Toronto 2-0

NEW YORK (AP) — Former Chelsea star Frank Lampard scored his first goal since joining Major League Soccer this year, leading New York City FC to a 2-0 win over Toronto FC on Wednesday.

Lampard scored in the 20th minute after settling RJ Allen's back-pass with his chest and rolling in a goal through traffic.

The former England international spent 13 seasons with Chelsea, won three Premier League titles and scored 176 goals in 599 games. He signed with NYCFC last July and played in the MLS

off-season for Manchester City, which like NYCFC is controlled by City Football Group.

New York City won its first game since Aug. 13 to move past Philadelphia into eighth position in the Eastern Conference.

In other matches, Kelyn Rowe scored in the 65th minute as the New England Revolution beat the New York Red Bulls 2-1 to move into first place in the East.

New England won its sixth straight game, matching a club record set in 2005.

Diego Fagundez scored in his fourth straight game

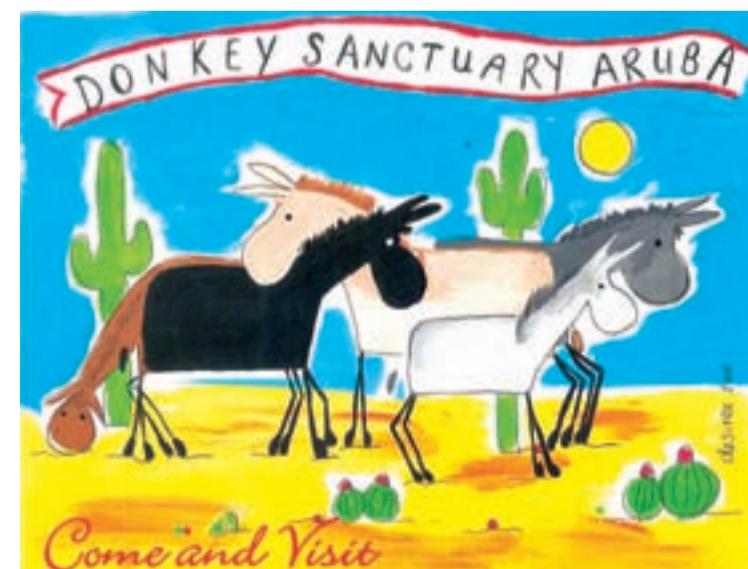
for New England in the 2nd minute. Juan Agudelo one-touched a free kick into open space and Fagundez ran past the defense to send it home. In the second half, Scott Caldwell lofted a loose ball in front of the net and the uncovered Rowe volleyed it home.

In San Jose, California, Kyle Bekker scored his first MLS goal in the 65th minute as 10-man Montreal played the Earthquakes to a 1-1 draw.

Bekker caught goalkeeper David Bingham leaning the wrong way and squeezed a shot inside the near post.

It was the Canadian's first game with the Impact after

being traded from FC Dallas on July 16. □



**AL Capsules****Rangers hit 5 HRs in 14-3 win over Astros, stretch West lead +****The Associated Press**

**ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)** — Prince Fielder hit two of Texas' season-high five homers and drove in five runs in the leading Rangers' 14-3 victory over the Houston Astros in Major League Baseball on Wednesday.

After taking over first place with a 6-5 victory Tuesday night, Texas increased its advantage over Houston in the American League West division to 1 1/2 games going into the series finale on Thursday.

Fielder's RBI single in the first put the Rangers ahead to stay. The slugger pulled both of his homers into the second deck in right field, leading off the third and then capping an 11-pitch at-bat in the sixth with a three-run shot that made it 12-1.

Mike Napoli, Rougned Odor and Bobby Wilson also homered to help Texas win its third straight game in the series.

Martin Perez (3-5) gave up one run over seven innings while allowing 10 base runners — nine hits and a walk. The left-hander struck out three. Dallas Keuchel (17-8) was the loser.

**BLUE JAYS 9, BRAVES 1**

**ATLANTA (AP)** — David Price allowed one run in seven innings and Russell Martin hit a homer and drove in four runs as Toronto beat Shelby Miller and Atlanta to protect its AL East division lead.

Price (16-5) gave up six hits and had nine strikeouts. He improved to 7-1 since coming to Toronto in a trade with Detroit, and lowered his ERA to 2.42.

The Blue Jays stayed three games ahead of second-place New York.

Toronto had 12 hits as it returned to its customary high-scoring pace after managing only a combined two runs in two straight losses. Martin hit a two-run double in the four-run first and added a two-run homer off Ryan Kelly in the ninth.

Miller (5-15) didn't make it

through the fourth inning. He is winless in 22 straight starts, the longest streak for any pitcher in a season he was an All-Star. The right-hander has lost 14 consecutive decisions since his last win on May 17.

**YANKEES 3, RAYS 1**

**ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP)** — Prized rookie Luis Severino rebounded from his worst start and Greg Bird homered and drove in two runs as New York beat Tampa Bay.

Severino (4-3) allowed one run and six hits in 5 2-3 innings. The right-hander gave up a career-high six earned runs over 2 1-3 innings in an 11-5 loss Friday to Toronto.

After Bird had a second-inning RBI double, Chase Headley put the Yankees up 2-0 with a run-scoring single in the sixth. Bird, also a rookie, made it 3-1 on his ninth-inning shot.

Justin Wilson, Dellin Betances and Andrew Miller, who pitched the ninth for his 34th save, combined for 3 1-3 scoreless innings for New York.

Chris Archer (12-12) was the loser.

**TIGERS 7, TWINS 4**

**MINNEAPOLIS (AP)** — Ian Kinsler's two-out RBI single preceded a two-run homer by J.D. Martinez in the top of the 12th inning, pushing Detroit past Minnesota in a back-and-forth game.

With scant fans left from the crowd of 22,509, Martinez's 37th home run off Brian Duensing (4-1) landed with a loud clang on the metal bleachers in lower left field that punctuated a tough loss for the postseason-chasing Twins. They stayed

1 1/2 games behind Houston for the second American League wild card spot, after the Astros lost to Texas. Ian Krol (2-3), the ninth Tigers pitcher, got the last nine outs for the victory while allowing only one walk. He stranded the two runners he inherited with no outs in the 10th.

**RED SOX 10, ORIOLES 1**

**BALTIMORE (AP)** — Dustin

Pedroia homered twice and had a season-high five RBIs to back a dominant pitching performance by rookie Henry Owens in Boston's victory over Baltimore. David Ortiz also went deep for the last-place Red Sox, his 35th homer of the season and 501st overall.

Owens (3-2) gave up six hits over 7 2-3 shutout innings. The 23-year-old lefty struck out four, walked none and reduced his ERA from 5.25 to 4.33.

Pedroia hit a two-run drive off Mike Wright (2-5) in the third and a three-run shot against Jorge Rondon in the fourth to stake Boston to a 9-0 lead.

**INDIANS 5, ROYALS 1**

**CLEVELAND (AP)** — Francisco Lindor was 3 for 4 with a home run and four RBIs to lead Cleveland past Kansas City.

Lindor had a solo homer in the first for his 100th hit since being called up from baseball's minor leagues on June 14, added a two-run single in the second and an RBI single in the fourth.

Danny Salazar (13-8) took a three-hit shutout into the seventh before Mike Moustakas started the inning with a home run. The right-hander allowed one run and struck out six in seven innings.

Danny Duffy (7-8) allowed four runs in 2 1-3 innings for the Royals. They have dropped nine of 12.

**MARINERS 3, ANGELS 1**

**SEATTLE (AP)** — Jesus Montero continued to get the best of Los Angeles' Jered Weaver, hitting a three-run homer to help Seattle hand the Angels their third loss in four games.

Montero hit a line drive into the bullpen in left field with two outs in the fourth inning. He has five career homers and six hits overall against Weaver (7-11).

Hisashi Iwakuma (8-4) allowed one run and struck out a season-high nine in six strong innings.

David Murphy homered for the second straight game for the Angels. □



Texas Rangers' Mike Napoli, left, and Prince Fielder, right, celebrate a three-run home run by Napoli off Houston Astros' Dallas Keuchel during the first inning of a baseball game Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2015, in Arlington, Texas. The shot scored Fielder and Shin-Soo Choo.

Associated Press

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FRI 3:50 | 6:35 | 9:20 | 12:00  
SAT 3:50 | 6:35 | 9:20 | 12:00  
SUN & HOL 3:50 | 6:35 | 9:20

**JOHNNY DEPP | BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH**  
**SCORCH TRIALS**  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES (3D VERSION)  
MON-THURS 6:10 | 9:00  
FRI 6:10 | 9:00 | 11:45  
SAT 3:10 | 6:10 | 9:00 | 11:40  
SUN & HOL 3:10 | 6:10 | 9:00

**JOEL EDGERTON | ANGELINA JOLIE**  
**MAZE RUNNER: THE SCORCH TRIALS**  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES (3D VERSION)  
MON-THURS 4:55 | 7:45  
FRI 4:55 | 7:45 | 10:30  
SAT 2:05 | 4:55 | 7:45 | 10:30  
SUN & HOL 2:05 | 4:55 | 7:45

**JOHNNY DEPP | BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH**  
**BLACK MASS**  
3D  
MON-THURS 4:00 | 6:35 | 9:15  
FRI 4:00 | 6:35 | 9:15 | 11:55  
SAT 4:00 | 6:35 | 9:15 | 11:55  
SUN & HOL 4:00 | 6:35 | 9:15

**OLIVIA DEJONGE | ED O'BRIEN**  
**THE VISIT**  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES (3D VERSION)  
MON-THURS 5:10 | 7:20  
FRI 5:10 | 7:20  
SAT 3:00 | 5:10 | 7:20  
SUN & HOL 3:00 | 5:10 | 7:20

**SANA LATHAN | MICHAEL Ealy**  
**THE PERFECT GUY**  
MON-THURS 4:35 | 6:55 | 9:15  
FRI 4:35 | 6:55 | 9:15 | 11:35  
SAT 2:15 | 4:35 | 6:55 | 9:15 | 11:35  
SUN & HOL 2:15 | 4:35 | 6:55 | 9:15

**ADAM COOPER | BILL COYLE**  
**THE TRANSPORTER REFUELED**  
MON-THURS 9:30  
FRI 9:30 | 11:45  
SAT 9:30 | 11:45  
SUN & HOL 9:30

**JUSTIN FLETCHER | JOHN SPARKES**  
**SHAUN THE SHEEP MOVIE**  
MON-THURS 2:45  
FRI 2:45 | 7:15 | 9:35  
SAT 2:45 | 7:15 | 9:35  
SUN & HOL 2:45 | 7:15 | 9:35

**RUPERT FRIEND | HANNAH WARE**  
**HITMAN AGENT 47**  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES (PG-13)  
MON-THURS 4:55 | 7:15 | 9:35  
FRI 4:55 | 7:15 | 9:35  
SAT 4:55 | 7:15 | 9:35  
SUN & HOL 4:55 | 7:15 | 9:35

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## NL Capsules

## Peavy homers for 1st time in 9 years as Giants top Reds 5-3

The Associated Press

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)** — Giants pitcher Jake Peavy homered through the low-hanging mist for his first long ball in more than nine years, leading San Francisco past Cincinnati.

Peavy struck out eight in six-plus innings on the mound and connected for his third career home run in the fourth against reliever Collin Balester. It was Peavy's first since July 26, 2006, at Dodger Stadium with the Padres.

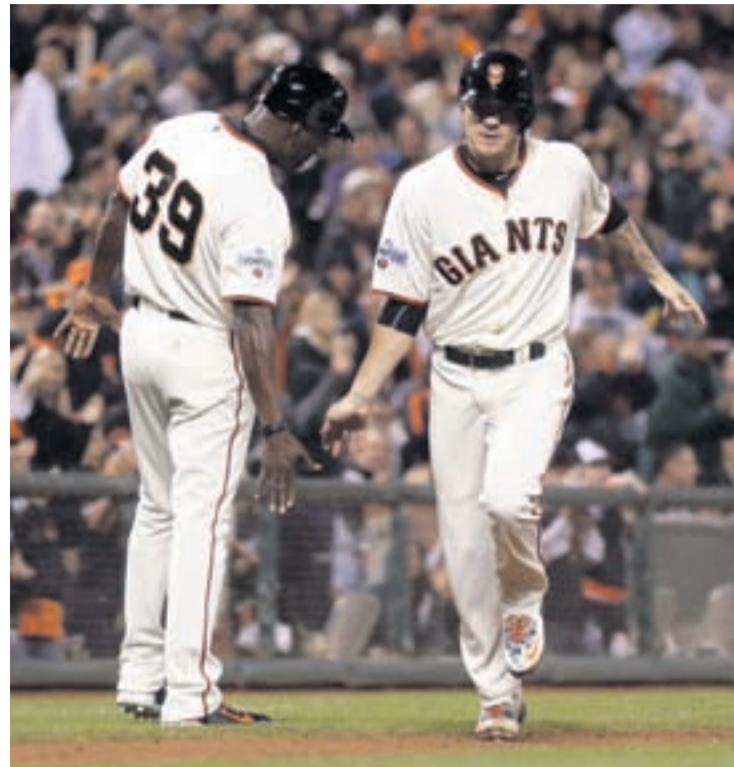
That gave Giants pitchers nine home runs this season, the most since hitting 10 in 1934. The 1924 team also had nine.

Peavy (7-6) became the fifth San Francisco pitcher to go deep this season, matching an MLB record. Everyone in the rotation with at least 16 starts aside from rookie Chris Heston has homered, and Madison Bumgarner has five.

San Francisco remained 7 1/2 games behind NL West-leading Los Angeles and 7 1/2 back of the Cubs for the second playoff wild card.

**CUBS 3, PIRATES 2, 12 INNINGS**

**PITTSBURGH (AP)** — Pinch-runner Quintin Berry raced home on Anthony Rizzo's sacrifice fly in the top of the 12th inning, and Chicago



San Francisco Giants pitcher Jake Peavy, right, is congratulated by third base coach Roberto Kelly (39) after hitting a home run off Cincinnati Reds' Collin Balester during the fourth inning of a baseball game Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2015, in San Francisco.

Associated Press

slipped by Pittsburgh. Pittsburgh rallied to tie it in the eighth against Jake Arrieta, spoiling his bid to become the first 20-game winner in MLB this season. Arrieta allowed two runs, one earned, and six hits, but failed to pick up a win for the first time since Aug. 4.

Chris Denorfia singled off Vance Worley (4-6) to start the 12th, and was replaced by Berry, who advanced to second on a wild pitch

and third on Austin Jackson's single. Starling Marte tracked down Rizzo's sinking liner to left field but had no shot at Berry.

Hector Rondon (6-4) worked two innings to help Chicago pull within three games of the Pirates for the top spot in the National League playoff wild-card race.

**MARLINS 6, METS 0**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Adam Conley slowed New York's pursuit of the National

League East title with a career-high seven innings for streaking Miami.

Facing a makeshift lineup of all right-handers, Conley (4-1) allowed three hits and struck out six as Miami beat New York for a second straight night to secure its fifth straight series win — matching a franchise record set in 2003 for most consecutive series won in one season.

Martin Prado and J.T. Realmuto homered off Bartolo Colon (14-12).

New York's lead over Washington was cut to 7 1/2 games.

**NATIONALS 12, PHILLIES 2**

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)** — Jayson Werth hit two homers, Bryce Harper also went deep and Gio Gonzalez tied his career high with 12 strikeouts in Washington's victory over Philadelphia.

Werth and Harper each had four home runs in the three-game sweep that extended the Nationals' winning streak to four. Gonzalez (11-7) allowed two runs on five hits with a pair of walks in seven innings.

Darin Ruf homered for Philadelphia. The Phillies have dropped seven of 10.

Alec Asher (0-4) was tagged for four runs on seven hits in five innings.

**DODGERS 2, ROCKIES 0**

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Alex

Wood pitched one-hit ball for eight innings on only 78 pitches and retired his last 19 batters, leading Los Angeles past Colorado.

Wood (10-11) struck out five and walked none in the game that took just 2 hours, 8 minutes. Kyle Parker's clean two-out single to right-center field in the second was the only hit against the 24-year-old left-hander, whose only complete game in 64 MLB starts was on April 17, 2014, when he pitched eight innings in a 1-0 loss at Philadelphia while with the Atlanta Braves.

A.J. Ellis homered and rookie Corey Seager had an RBI single for the Dodgers, the winner of 17 of their last 22 games. Jorge De La Rosa (9-7) went the distance, allowing six hits over eight innings with five strikeouts and a walk.

**CARDINALS 5, BREWERS 4**

**MILWAUKEE (AP)** — Tommy Pham homered twice and tripled, Matt Carpenter added a solo shot and Jaime Garcia went 6 1-3 innings in St. Louis' 5-4 victory over Milwaukee.

Pham's two-run shots came in the second and the fourth off Wily Peralta (5-9). Carpenter led off the third with his 22nd home run and 74th RBI of the season, both team highs. □

**Mayweather**

Continued from page 17

Showtime Sports executive vice president and general manager Stephen Espinoza said he did not plan to release the results. Espinoza said his default position is not to release the figures and only does when there are other parties involved who ask that it be released. He would not speak in specifics but agreed to talk to Yahoo Sports about the difficulty in promoting the last fight of Mayweather's legendary career.

Mayweather was coming off a heavily hyped May 2 bout against Manny Pacquiao that sold a record 4.6 million PPV units and gener-

ated a record of more than \$400 million in PPV revenue. But there was widespread dissatisfaction with that fight and numerous lawsuits sprung up in the aftermath. "To a large extent, anything we did coming off of that massive May 2 event was going to feel like a bit of a letdown," Espinoza told Yahoo Sports. "We didn't have available a really compelling list of available opponents.

There's been a lot of speculation about a lot of things, but when you got down to it, there wasn't really a long list of available guys and none of them were slam dunk established stories or really compelling storylines."

View photo

eonard Ellerbe, the CEO of Mayweather Promotions, said he had not heard a pay-per-view figure yet. He said no one expected Mayweather-Berto to come close to Mayweather-Pacquiao and said Mayweather has long since been established as the sport's biggest pay-per-view draw.

"At the end of the day, given what we've accomplished, we're essentially competing against ourselves with this," Ellerbe said. "There's no one else at this level, so we're just competing against ourselves."

Cable systems tend to sell a bit more than 50 percent of the total sales of a show. The telephone companies generally account for eight

percent or less. The satellite companies, DirecTV and Dish, make up the rest.

Dish has a heavier Hispanic subscriber set so pay-per-view bouts featuring a Hispanic fighter in the main event tend to do better on Dish than ones without.

He said that despite the comparatively poor results of the Mayweather-Berto fight, Showtime was very pleased with its six-fight deal with Mayweather. He said he'd "do it again in a heartbeat."

The live gate hasn't officially been announced, but Ellerbe told Yahoo Sports on Wednesday that it would be at least \$10 million. The announced attendance on Saturday was 13,359, about 1,000 shy of

a sell-out. Mayweather has the three largest gates in Nevada history and five of the top six, led by \$72 million for the Pacquiao fight. His May 4, 2013, bout with Robert Guerrero had a live paid gate of \$9.9 million.

Mayweather was guaranteed \$32 million. Berto was guaranteed \$4 million, though Showtime did not guarantee all of that money.

Even if the fight sold on the upper end of what the promotion source estimated at 550,000, that would generate about \$20.6 million for the promotion. At 550,000 sales, that would do \$41.2 million in gross PPV sales. Half of that goes to the television distributors and half to the promotion. □

## Amazon dangles \$50 tablet computer to hook more consumers



In this Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2015, photo, Amazon's new \$50 Fire tablet is displayed next to a six-pack of them and assorted colored cases in San Francisco. Amazon.com is introducing the \$50 tablet computer in its latest attempt to boost its online store sales by luring consumers who can't afford more expensive Internet-connected devices made by Apple and other rivals.

**Associated Press**

**MICHAEL LIEDTKE**

**AP Technology Writer**

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —**

Amazon is dangling a \$50 tablet computer in its latest attempt to lure consumers who can't afford or don't want the more expensive Internet-connected devices made by Apple and other rivals.

The 7-inch Fire tablet unveiled Thursday marks Amazon's most aggressive attempt yet to undercut Apple, which has been the market leader since its first iPad went on sale five years ago. The least expensive iPad Mini, which has an 8-inch screen, currently sells for \$270.

Amazon.com Inc. isn't trying to persuade anyone that its cheap tablet matches the quality of its own sleeker, higher-priced

Fire HD alternatives, let alone the top-selling iPad line.

But the Seattle company is counting on the new tablet's low price to encourage more people to buy a device that will hook them on watching video, reading books, playing games and shopping on a computer that's easy to carry wherever they go.

In the process, Amazon is hoping consumers will buy more digital goods and merchandise from its store while also subscribing to its \$100-per-year Prime service that offers a mix of videos, music and free shipping.

"Our tablet focus is in and around content consumption," said David Limp, Amazon's senior vice president of devices.

As with its previous low-

priced tablets, the new Fire device will show ads on its screen saver. Avoiding the ads will cost an additional \$15.

The discount tablet will debut amid a slump in the sale of the devices. The downturn suggests consumers who already own a tablet see little need to upgrade and those that don't have one either aren't interesting in the devices or can't afford one.

Apple's iPad sales have been declining since 2013, spurring the company to take aim at selling more of its tablets to corporate customers and government agencies. Industrywide, worldwide sales of tablets are expected to fall 8 percent this year, according to the research firm International Data Corp.

Amazon is hoping that the low price of the new tablet will be so appealing that people will stock up on the devices and have them scattered around the house.

As a prod, it plans to sell a six-pack of the 7-inch Fire tablets for the price of five, or \$250.

Although the new tablet is cheap, Limp boasted it is far superior to other discount tablets that are "something you wouldn't want to give your worst enemy, let alone a family member or a kid."

Amazon is promising the discount tablet will have decent processing power, good color saturation and seven hours of battery life. A more durable version designed for kids will come with a blue or pink bumper and a 2-year replacement

warranty if it's broken for any reason. It will sell for \$100.

Pre-orders for the tablet will begin Thursday, with shipments expected in two weeks.

Amazon also unveiled updates to larger, more expensive tablets and its devices for streaming Internet video to television sets as it gears up to battle Apple and other gadget makers for the flurry of electronics sales that typically accompanies the holiday shopping season.

Apple got the jump on Amazon last week when it showed off its latest iPhone, an iPad with a 12-inch screen and a long-delayed update of its TV-streaming box for Internet video and music.

Amazon tried to counter the iPhone's popularity with its own smartphone last year, but it never caught on. The company no longer sells its Fire phone, though it's still available in other online stores.

Despite that the phone's flop, Limp insisted "there's a lot of good things happening across (Amazon's) device business."

The company's holiday line-up includes a more durable 8-inch Fire HD tablet with faster processing speeds than last year's model that will sell at prices beginning at \$150. An upgraded 10-inch Fire HD tablet will sell for \$230, or 42 percent less than the least expensive \$400 iPad with a comparable display size.

Amazon is adding a remote control with a voice-activated search option to its Fire stick for Internet video streaming.

The streaming stick will sell for \$50, up from \$40 for last year's version without voice-recognition technology.

Amazon's Fire TV box will now be able stream ultra HD video with technology that is also supposed to deliver a better picture to screens with standard HD, too. It will sell for \$100 compared with \$150 for the new Apple TV box scheduled to go on sale at the end of next month. □

## Wall Street ends lower as Fed keeps rates low

**KEN SWEET**

**AP Business Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Stocks ended mostly lower after a volatile day as traders tried

percent, to 1,990.20 and the Nasdaq composite index rose 4.71 points, or 0.1 percent, to 4,893.95. The Fed said that while

bank actually raised rates was 2006.

Ultra-low interest rates tend to help the stock market because they make bonds,

interest rate policy will be "normalized," that means more waiting.

"They just need a little more time. The drumbeat is getting louder for them to actually raise rates," said Tony Bedikian, head of global markets at Citizens Financial Group.

With interest rates not changing soon and inflation in check, investors bought up bonds. The yield on the U.S. 10-year Treasury note dropped to 2.19 percent from 2.30 percent the day before, a large move. The two-year Treasury note, which would be more heavily impacted by higher short-term interest rates, had even an even more dramatic move, dropping to 0.68 percent from 0.80 percent.

In precious metals markets, gold and silver saw significant buying in after-hours trading after the Fed released its statement. Gold fell \$2 to settle at \$1,117 an ounce in regular trading but was up \$12.80 to \$1,131.80 an ounce later. Silver added 10 cents to settle at \$14.98 an ounce, and gained another 25 cents to \$15.13 in extended trading. Copper finished unchanged at \$2.45 a pound in regular trading.

It was up a penny in after-hours trading. Oil finished slightly lower after the Fed's comments. U.S. crude fell 25 cents to \$46.90 a barrel. Brent crude, a benchmark for many international oils imported by U.S. refineries, fell 67 cents to \$49.08 a barrel. □



**Trader Gregory Rowe, left, and specialist Mario Picone work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Thursday, Sept. 17, 2015. Stocks ended mostly lower after a volatile day as traders tried to figure out what was next for U.S. interest rates.**

to figure out what was next for U.S. interest rates.

The bumpy trading Thursday came after the Federal Reserve decided to keep interest rates low for now, citing weakness in the global economy and unsettled financial markets.

Investors did make significant bets on U.S. Treasuries and, for a change, precious metals. The U.S. dollar weakened against its major currency counterparts as the threat of higher interest rates abated.

The Dow Jones industrial average lost 65.21 points, or 0.4 percent, to 16,674.74. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 5.11 points, or 0.3

the U.S. job market is solid, there are reasons to be concerned about global economic growth. Fed Chair Janet Yellen said a rate hike is still likely this year. The Fed meets again in October and December.

"The market got what it wanted," said Alan Rechtschaffen, a portfolio manager at UBS. "The market had a 'rate rant' last month and that scared the Fed."

Interest rates have been near zero since 2008, when the Fed drastically cut rates in response to the financial crisis and Great Recession. The last time the central

**(AP Photo/Richard Drew)**

CDs and other income-producing investments less appealing by comparison. They also make it inexpensive for companies to borrow money to buy back their own shares, which also sends stock prices higher.

On the other hand, the Fed has made it abundantly clear that the current policy of super-low rates is an unusual measure intended to shore up the economy and will eventually be dismantled. Keeping it in place is a signal that the Fed believes the economy isn't quite strong enough to withstand higher rates. For investors wondering when

## STREET BRIEFS

### Saudi oil giant Aramco names new president

**JIDDAH, Saudi Arabia (AP)**

— Saudi Arabia's state-run oil giant Aramco has named Amin Nasser its new president. The company announced the decision Thursday after the recently established Aramco Supreme Council held its first meeting in the Red Sea city of Jiddah. The meeting was led by Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who is also the country's defense minister. Nasser has been acting president and chief executive officer at Aramco since April, after assuming the role from Khaled al-Falih, who was appointed as Aramco's chairman and the country's health minister. Aramco is the world's largest exporter of crude. The price of oil—the backbone of Saudi Arabia's economy—has fallen by about half since mid-2014. Around 90 percent of the Saudi government's revenue comes from oil. □

### SAP CEO doing better after eye lost in accident

**FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)**

— Bill McDermott, CEO of business software company SAP SE, says he's recovering after a serious accident that cost him his left eye. McDermott told Germany's *Sueddeutsche Zeitung* daily in an interview that he'll be medically cleared to fly again in October so he can return to the company's headquarters in Walldorf, Germany. McDermott said he fell while carrying a glass of water downstairs at night after a family gathering in the United States in July. He was injured by one of the glass shards and underwent surgery. He said he had remained productive between surgeries while in the United States and that his experience had inspired him to think about ways software could improve medical records and treatment. □

## Perrigo urges rejection of Mylan takeover bid

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Perrigo urged shareholders to reject Mylan's \$27 billion hostile takeover offer, saying it undervalues the company.

On Tuesday, Mylan took its offer directly to Perrigo's shareholders after it had been rejected by the company. The latest offer, initially proposed last week, would give shareholders \$75 in cash and 2.3

shares of Mylan N.V. stock for every Perrigo Co. share they hold.

That's a premium of about 4 percent, based on Perrigo's value just before the offer was announced.

Dutch drugmaker Mylan wants to combine its prescription generic drug business with Irish drugmaker's business in over-the-counter products like vitamins, nutritional

products and infant formula, and it has said the two companies would have about \$15 billion in combined annual revenue. Mylan shareholders voted in favor of the acquisition last month and European Union regulators have cleared it.

Mylan offered to buy Perrigo for \$205 per share in April and later increased its offer to \$232.23 per share,

or \$34.1 billion. Perrigo said that cash-and-stock offer wasn't worth as much as Mylan said. At the time Mylan's stock price was elevated as an even larger generic drug company, Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd., was trying to buy Mylan. Mylan fended off Teva, which decided to buy Allergan PLC's generic drug business for \$40.5 billion instead. □

## Wal-Mart says it will hire 60,000 holiday season workers

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Wal-Mart says it will hire 60,000 employees to meet increased shopping demand over the holiday season. The world's largest retailer said Thursday it will have more employees in stores and more registers open during peak hours, and it plans to add department managers at 3,500 stores. Wal-Mart says current em-

ployees will have the first choice to pick up additional hours. The Bentonville, Arkansas-based company also hired 60,000 people for holiday season jobs last year, but says it has more employees working more hours in its stores than it did in 2014. The company says most of its holiday-season employees stayed with the com-

pany after the holidays ended.

Earlier this year Wal-Mart raised its minimum wage to \$9 an hour from \$7.25, giving a raise to about 500,000 employees. Wal-Mart also said it would give employees more control over their schedules, improve training and give employees more opportunities for advancement.

The company hopes to improve its customer service with an eye toward encouraging shoppers to spend more.

The company has about 1.4 million workers in the U.S. as of Jan. 31.

A spate of companies have disclosed their holiday hiring plans this week, as Black Friday is about 10 weeks away and com-

panies are getting ready for the increase in business that comes with the busy shopping period. Retailers Kohl's Corp. and Toys R Us and shipping companies FedEx Corp. and United Parcel Service Inc. all announced their plans in the last few days. Shares of Wal-Mart Stores Inc. added 1 cent to \$64.70 in afternoon trading. □

## Europe's Altice buying Cablevision as it expands in US



The Cablevision pre-market price appears on a screen above the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Thursday, Sept. 17, 2015. European telecommunications and cable company Altice has agreed to buy New York cable operator Cablevision for \$17.7 billion, including debt.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

**TALI ARBEL**  
**AP Business Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — European telecommunications and cable company Altice has agreed to buy New York cable operator Cablevision for \$17.7 billion, including debt, as it pursues

its aggressive expansion in the U.S.

Altice announced the deal Thursday and Cablevision said the family-controlled company considered that "the time is right for new ownership of Cablevision." The move is part of Nether-

lands-based Altice's plan to broaden its business in the U.S. It bought Suddenlink, a smaller cable company based in St. Louis, for \$9.1 billion in May after trying to take over the much larger Time Warner Cable. Shares of Cablevision Sys-

tems Corp. jumped \$4.32, or 15.1 percent, to \$32.86 in late afternoon trading.

Altice said the deal will be financed with \$14.5 billion of debt at Cablevision plus cash from both companies. Altice said it hopes to complete the deal in the first half of next year, though it remains subject to regulatory approval.

U.S. cable companies have been in a merger frenzy over the past few years as people increasingly drop their TV packages and watch video online from competitors like Netflix, while cable companies' costs for sports and other channels rise.

Charter Communications, backed by cable pioneer John Malone, is trying to buy Time Warner Cable

and Bright House for \$67.1 billion. That comes after Comcast walked away from a combination with Time Warner Cable because of regulatory push-back. AT&T recently closed on a \$48.5 billion purchase of satellite TV company Di-

rectTV. Altice SA is controlled by founder and French billionaire Patrick Drahi, who has a long track record of expanding businesses through aggressive acquisition campaigns.

At a Goldman Sachs investor conference in New York on Thursday, Drahi said there is room to improve overhead costs at Cablevision and complained the salaries are high at the company. He added he was committed to having a presence in the U.S. for the long term, and said European and U.S. companies could learn from each other. The goal is "to bring the U.S. (average revenue per user) to Europe and Europe's cost structure to the U.S.," he said.

Drahi cut his teeth by setting up regional cable TV operators in France in the mid-1990s that he sold to big U.S. corporations. He then helped the same U.S. companies buy up smaller rivals in Europe before setting up Altice in 2002. □

## Cheaper oil lowers US current account deficit in 2nd quarter

**C. S. RUGABER**  
**AP Economics Writer**  
**WASHINGTON (AP)** —

Cheaper oil imports and greater U.S. exports lowered the deficit in the broadest measure of U.S. trade in the April-June quarter.

The Commerce Department said Thursday that the current account deficit shrank to \$109.7 billion, down from \$118.3 billion in the first quarter. The current account tracks not only

trade in goods and services but also investment flows.

Falling oil prices helped reduce the value of oil imports, lowering the trade deficit to \$130 billion from \$134.3 billion in the first quarter. Exports of goods and services increased to \$564.7 billion from \$561.7 billion.

The trade gap was a big drag on growth in the first three months of the year, when the economy barely

expanded. But the smaller deficit in the second quarter contributed to a much faster expansion.

The economy grew at a 3.7 percent annual pace in the April-June quarter, after growth of just 0.6 percent in the first three months of the year.

But the improvement in the current account deficit may not last. U.S. exporters have seen their overseas sales struggle as economies from Europe to China

have slowed. The strong dollar is another challenge. It has increased about 14 percent in value in the past year compared with overseas currencies. That makes U.S. goods more expensive overseas, and imports cheaper in the U.S.

The Federal Reserve is keeping a close watch on slowing global growth as it finishes a two-day meeting Thursday. It may decide to raise the short-term interest rate it controls for the

first time in nine years. But many analysts believe that global financial turmoil, spurred largely by weaker growth in China, may cause them to hold off until a future meeting.

U.S. investors and companies also earned more on their foreign holdings in the second quarter, the government said. The surplus on investment income rose to \$50.6 billion in the second quarter from \$49.7 billion in the first. □

Mutts



6 Chix



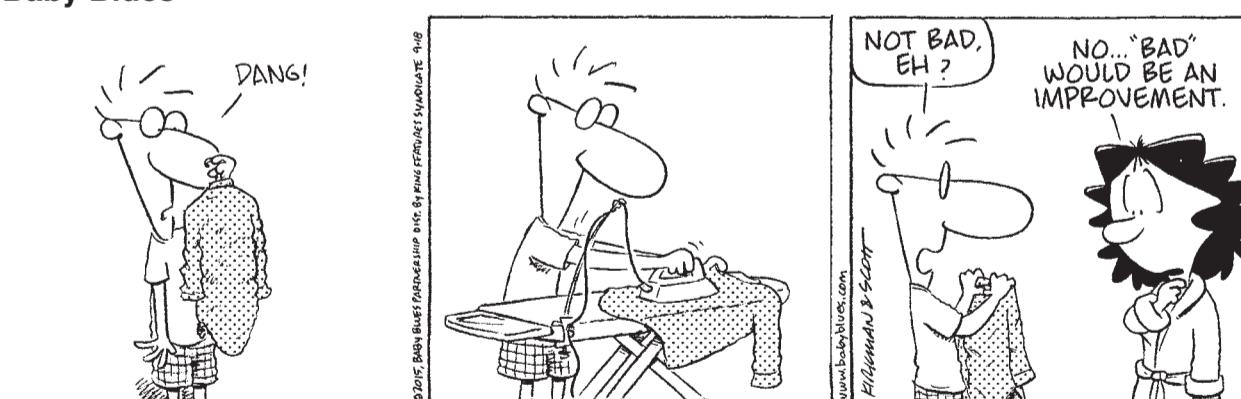
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

9	8	3	2
6			
7	3		4 1
8		4	7
1		2	5
3	5		6 4
		5	
2	6	9	8

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

5	7	8	1	3	9	6	4	2
9	2	6	4	5	7	1	3	8
3	1	4	2	6	8	7	9	5
8	4	1	3	2	5	9	6	7
7	6	5	9	8	1	4	2	3
2	9	3	6	7	4	8	5	1
4	3	9	7	1	2	5	8	6
6	5	7	8	4	3	2	1	9
1	8	2	5	9	6	3	7	4

Yesterday's puzzle answer

ACROSS

- 1 Cry
- 4 Didn't feel well
- 9 Hauls; tows
- 13 Perón and Mendes
- 15 Do the job of a chauffeur
- 16 October's birthstone
- 17 Canvas shelter
- 18 Is crazy about
- 19 \_\_\_ to; awake after sedation
- 20 Poverty
- 22 Recognized
- 23 BBQ favorites
- 24 \_\_\_ de cologne
- 26 Lofts
- 29 Sweat
- 34 Hopscotch grid drawer's need
- 35 Leaves suddenly
- 36 Pres. Arthur's monogram
- 37 Give a job to
- 38 \_\_\_ down; diets successfully
- 39 Actress \_\_\_-Na Wen
- 40 Conclusion
- 41 Frijoles
- 42 Pig out
- 43 Illuminating roof feature
- 45 Very small measuring cup
- 46 Kippur
- 47 One's equal
- 48 Grassy area
- 51 Humiliate
- 55 Wild goat
- 57 Lunctimes
- 58 Ballerina's skirt
- 60 Escape
- 61 Exchange
- 62 Australian birds that cannot fly
- 63 Mack & Turner
- 64 Wander off
- 65 "Cat \_\_\_ Hot Tin Roof"
- 27 Use the brain
- 28 Late for school
- 29 \_\_\_ out; indicate
- 30 Lawn trees
- 31 Cake topping
- 32 "Home on the \_\_\_"
- 33 Enthusiastic
- 35 Boring
- 36 Portions

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

9/18/15

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

G	I	F	T	S	C	A	R	F	S	T	A	B
A	B	L	E	P	O	L	A	R	C	G	A	E
Z	E	A	L	I	N	A	N	E	A	X	E	S
E	X	P	L	O	R	E	C	E	L	I	S	T
I	D	O	F	I	D	E	L	E	L	E	L	E
F	R	O	N	D	H	I	D	G	O	A	L	S
R	A	N	G	L	A	D	T	I	P	T	O	E
A	B	S	O	L	D	O	U	T	A	C	E	
I	B	E	R	I	A	L	U	G	G	L	A	D
L	I	T	E	R	M	E	T	D	O	L	L	S
C	E	D	A	R	B	I	B	B	B	B	B	B
H	A	V	E	N	O	T	T	U	M	B	L	E
U	S	E	D	U	T	T	E	R	L	U	R	E
L	A	N	E	B	E	A	D	S	E	A	R	N
A	N	D	S	T	R	U	S	T	R	U	S	T

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- 49 Qualified
- 50 Garden intruder
- 51 Comedian Sahl
- 53 Wild hog
- 54 Japanese wrestling form
- 55 Astonish
- 59 Nation founded in 1776: abbr.

## Study: Type 2 diabetes pill Jardiance cuts risk of death



This product image provided by Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals shows bottles of Jardiance, a daily pill for Type 2 diabetes.

(BIP via AP)

**LINDA A. JOHNSON**  
**AP Business Writer**

**TRENTON, N.J. (AP)** — Jardiance sharply reduced chances of dying in diabetic patients at high risk of heart complications, a study shows, making the Type 2 diabetes medication the first shown to lengthen diabetics' lives. The study found Jardiance reduced deaths from heart complications by 38 percent, deaths from any cause by 32 percent and hospitalizations due to chronic heart failure by 35 percent. Heart complications prematurely kill many of the estimated 387 million diabetics worldwide, so doctors in recent years have moved from trying to reduce patients' blood sugar to trying to prevent cardiovascular complications. The results were particularly striking because nearly four-fifths of the participants were already taking standard medicines to control blood sugar, blood pressure and cholesterol, plus taking either Jardiance or a dummy pill. Wall Street was impressed, driving shares of drugmaker Eli Lilly and Co. up 6.6 percent to \$89.98. Earlier the stock traded at \$92.85, its highest point in nearly 15 years. Lilly and German partner Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals Inc.

funded the study, which included 7,020 patients in 42 countries followed for about three years, on average. Last month, the drugmakers announced their study showed cardiovascular deaths were lower in participants taking Jardiance than those given a dummy pill, in addition to standard heart and diabetes drugs. Detailed results were released Thursday, simultaneously at a European medical conference and in the New England Journal of Medicine. "Patients who took this drug had basically a 1-in-3 chance of avoiding death," said Dr. Silvio Inzucchi, director of the Yale Diabetes Center and a professor at Yale School of Medicine. He was part of the committee overseeing the study.

Given the savings from averting costly hospitalizations, Jardiance should appeal to insurers as well as doctors and patients, even with a wholesale price of \$343 per month — among the most expensive for diabetes medicines. Heart attacks, strokes and other cardiovascular damage kill about half of Type 2 diabetes patients, as excess sugar in their blood steadily damages the heart and blood vessels, along with other organs. For those at high risk of heart complications — people who've already had a heart attack or stroke, have blocked arteries or suffer chronic heart pain — diabetes and heart disease together on average shorten life expectancy by 12 years from age 60, according to a five-decade British study that included about 690,000 people. The Jardiance study, called EMPA-REG, found the drug reduced by 14 percent the combined number of non-fatal heart attacks, non-fatal strokes and deaths due to heart complications in study participants. □

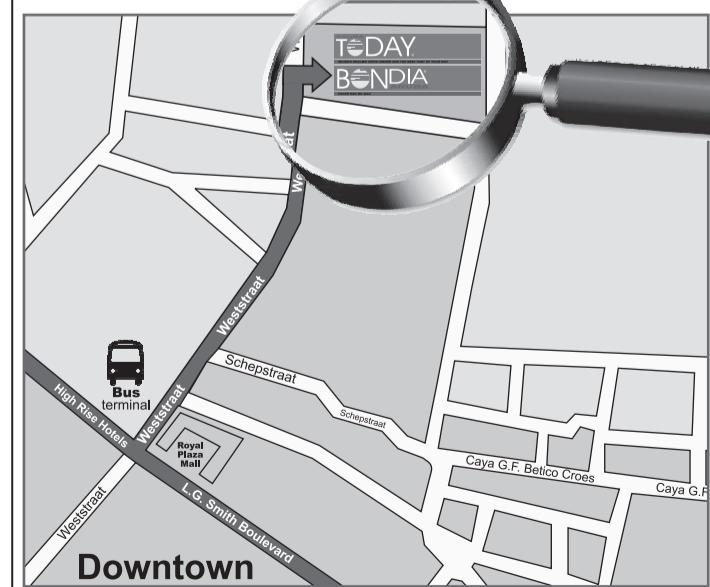
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## How to reach us!



### TIMESHARE FOR SALE

#### Divi Phoenix

Elegant five star property wk 34 pool side. Unit 107 Aug. 22 \$3500, 2nd wk 36 one bdr 1 bath, 9/5 starts \$4100 2nd wk 37 Studio 9/12 start \$3200 rm 504 king bed, queen, sofa email: rmwjmw@aol.com 508-651-0016

206999

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### TIMESHARE FOR SALE

#### RENAISSANCE

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26	507	\$3,500
26	543	\$5,300
40	105	\$5000
48/49	119	\$4,500
23	343	\$3,000
35	314	\$4,000
30	515	\$4,900
30	311	\$5,000
23	343	\$4,500
27	103	\$4,000
29	134	\$4,500
20&21	347	\$4,500
27	341	\$4,000

Contact Brian Cell: 593-0200 vr.realty@mac.com

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#### Luxurious House with pool

Great location 3 bedroom 2 bathrooms, garage, pool with jacuzzi, large porch, 650 m<sup>2</sup> property land, 200m<sup>2</sup> build-up, fully fenced.

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US\$420,000

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#### HOUSE ESMERALDA 109

700 mts<sup>2</sup> 3 bedr, 3 baths, kitchen. Living room, dinning room, marmol floor by owner.

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### TIMESHARE FOR SALE

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week 37 Studio

ocean view \$4,000

Divi Phoenix

week 38 Studio

ocean view \$4,000

#### Divi Golf & Beach Resort

week 11 1 bedroom, 2 bath

\$7,500

ritchey5652@comcast.net

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### TIMESHARE FOR SALE/RENT

#### Divi Golf and Beach

week 40, oct. 3 start Eagle 3 ground floor unit 4106. 2 baths, lock off master b/r, granite kitchen, gated, elegant furnishing, washer/ dryer, steps to affinity pool and bar sleeps 4 sale \$4850 (equity value \$11500) rent \$925 email: [rmwjmw@aol.com](mailto:rmwjmw@aol.com) 508-651-0016

207000



## DOCTOR ON DUTY Oranjestad



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## Report: Orbital faces risks in resuming space station runs

MARIA DUNN

AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)

— One of NASA's two commercial suppliers, Virginia-based Orbital, faces an uphill struggle in resuming deliveries to the International Space Station, according to a government report issued Thursday.

The space agency's inspector general office said the company's upcoming flight plan contains significant risks, as its attempts to recover from last October's launch explosion. Orbital's Antares rocket failed seconds after liftoff from Virginia, destroying the space station goods and damaging the launch complex. It was Orbital's fourth supply mission, including a 2013 test flight.

Orbital remains grounded, as does SpaceX, NASA's other commercial shipper, following a failed launch from Cape Canaveral in June. It was the California-based SpaceX's eighth shipment for NASA. Russia and Japan also send up supplies.

Orbital is working to get cargo to the space station as early as December by putting it on another company's rocket in Cape Canaveral. At the same time, Orbital — which merged



In this Tuesday, Oct. 28, 2014 file photo, an unmanned Orbital Sciences Corp.'s Antares rocket headed for the International Space Station lifts off from the Wallops Flight Facility on Wallops Island, Va. shortly before exploding.

Associated Press

with ATK earlier this year — hopes to resume Antares flights from Virginia next year with new engines.

According to the report, it may be difficult to meet those goals. But Orbital spokesman Barron Beneski said the company is right on schedule for the launches. The company is confident of its path forward, he said, and working with NASA to fulfill its contract. The report voiced concern about the fact that Orbital's Cygnus capsule has

never flown before on United Launch Alliance's Atlas V rocket, the kind that will be used in December and again in March to launch space station supplies. In addition, the report noted the tight schedule for outfitting the Antares with new engines; the company hopes to resume Antares launches in mid-2016. Both the old engines — believed to be the source of the accident — and new engines for the Antares are Russian made.

Beneski pointed out that Orbital has deep experience in putting its satellites on a variety of rockets. "Not like we haven't done it before. We have," he told The Associated Press. NASA's original \$1.9 billion contract with what was then Orbital Sciences Corp. called for eight supply runs. Because of the accident, only seven will be carried out. But the same amount of cargo will be delivered, Beneski said, because of the expanded

room on the Cygnus and the heavier lift capabilities of the Atlas and upgraded Antares rockets.

Inspector General Paul Martin said in the 46-page report that NASA did not take advantage of contract provisions to reduce its costs of up to \$84 million. Also, NASA had to pay \$5 million to help fund repairs of damaged property at the Wallops Island launch site, according to the report.

"NASA missed opportunities to seek lower prices from Orbital ... and we question the value" of NASA's agreement to accept one less resupply mission under the contract, the report stated.

The report also criticized Orbital's investigation into the October accident, saying it lacked the independence typically required of NASA mishap boards. The investigation report has not yet been released.

NASA's associate administrator for human exploration and operations, William Gerstenmaier, concurred with six of the inspector general's seven findings. The lone standout was one involving insurance at Wallops; Gerstenmaier said the correct procedures were followed. □

## Earth's record streak of record heat keeps on sizzling

SETH BORENSTEIN

AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Earth's record-breaking heat is sounding an awful lot like a broken record.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration announced Thursday that August, this past summer and the first eight

months of 2015 all smashed global records for heat. That's the fifth straight record hot season in a row and the fourth consecutive record hot month. Meteorologists say 2015 is a near certainty to eclipse 2014 as the hottest year on record. Since 2000, Earth has broken monthly heat records

30 times and seasonal heat records 11 times. Scientists blame a combination of human-caused climate change and natural El Niño. Earth broke the August record by a sixth of a degree and the summer record by a fifth of a degree. Records go back to 1880. □



In this Aug. 17, 2015 file photo, a child plays in the sprinklers of Seward park in New York as temperatures are expected to reach into the 90s in the New York metro area.

Associated Press

# Celebrities becoming the new media moguls

DAVID BAUDER

AP Television Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Oreo by double-stuffed Oreo, Khloe Kardashian fills a glass jar in her kitchen with dozens of cookies carefully arranged in a pattern. It's a chore she does once a month to keep the goodies fresh. For a subscription fee of \$2.99 a month, now there's an app that lets you watch. Khloe and her much-exposed sisters this week launched new apps and websites designed to give fans a further peek into their lives—and fatten their bank accounts in the process.

It's the latest example of celebrities involved in creating their own media outlets, diverse projects that go beyond connecting with fans on Instagram or Twitter. Celebrities like Ashton Kutcher, Gwyneth Paltrow and Derek Jeter have found them solid investments that give them tighter control over their images.

"It can be a good business," said Ken Doctor, founder of Newsonomics, a company that tracks digital development. "It can be a big business."

—Paltrow's Goop website was launched in 2008. It has established itself as a digital player in the lifestyle area, offering shopping opportunities, trend stories and recipes. This week on the site people can read a Q&A with an expert on ear piercing, discover romantic sites for proposals and learn about composting. The site recommends products and helps you shop for them. Users can also sign up for an email from Paltrow, delivered every Thursday.

—Kutcher and two partners launched the site A Plus last year and raised more than \$3 million in funding in less than a year, according to Business Insider. It's a curated news site of "positive journalism" reflecting the interests of the actor, who was renowned in the early



LEFT: In this Nov. 23, 2014 file photo, Kendall Jenner, left, and Kylie Jenner arrive at the 42nd annual American Music Awards in Los Angeles. RIGHT: In this May 15, 2014 file photo, Khloe Kardashian, left, and Kim Kardashian arrive at the NBCUniversal Cable Entertainment 2014 Upfront in New York.



Associated Press

days of Twitter for all of his followers. On Wednesday, the site featured stories on a philanthropist who is funding math and science teachers in New York City and twin brothers from Poland reunited after 70 years apart.

—Legendarily private baseball star Jeter seemed the least likely person to start a media outlet after his retirement, but The Players' Tribune is in character. The site cuts out reporters to offer athletes the opportunity to address fans directly.

New York Mets pitcher Matt Harvey took to Players' Tribune this month to address a controversy over how many innings he will pitch this season, his first after major arm surgery.

—Actress Lena Dunham is promising to start a newsletter, Lenny, this fall with Jenni Konner, a writer who works with her on the HBO series "Girls." The Lenny website said "there's no such thing as too much information" and said it will feature talk on feminism, style, health and relationships. In a preview, Konner writes about her mother getting an abortion.

—Jay Z curates Life + Times, an arts and culture website. Click on its home page Wednesday and you'll find articles on the DJ Rathchett Traxxx and the

Web series "Money & Violence," and a link to Jay Z's video for "Glory."

Smart celebrities noticed when Arianna Huffington, a public figure but not very well known, started The Huffington Post in 2005 and saw it take off, Doctor said. Smarter celebrities noticed when AOL Inc. bought the site for \$315 million in 2011. Media investors have expressed interest in celebrity projects, which means more are probably on the way, Doctor said. □

# CNN gets 22.9 million viewers for GOP debate



Republican presidential candidates, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, right, and Donald Trump both speak during the CNN Republican presidential debate at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum on Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2015, in Simi Valley, Calif.

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — An estimated 22.9 million people tuned in for Wednesday's second presidential primary debate on CNN. The Nielsen company said the viewership fell short of Fox News Channel's 24 million for the first debate in August, but it still represented the largest audience in CNN's 35-year history. The previous high was the 16.8 million people who watched a "Larry King Live" episode in 1993 with

Vice President Al Gore and Ross Perot.

The first two GOP debates have set new standards for interest in these contests. GOP frontrunner Donald Trump, suggesting he is the main factor in the ratings, said CNN donate advertising revenue to veterans group — a proposal the network never responded to.

With interest high, the CNN debate stretched to three hours. □

# Song by Tejano star Selena released 20 years after her death



**CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (AP)** — A new song by Tejano star Selena has been released two decades after she was killed by her fan club president.

Selena's father, Abraham Quintanilla (keen-tah-NEE'-yah), says he found a recording of the song, "Oh No (I'll Never Fall in Love Again)," a few weeks ago.

Selena sang a verse a cappella during a radio interview, which was later posted on YouTube. Quintanilla says fans have been asking for a recording of the song to be released.

The tune was being arranged before Selena Quintanilla-Perez was fatally shot in Corpus Christi, Texas, in March 1995. Her fan club president was convicted in the killing and sentenced to life in prison. Quintanilla released the song on his production company's online station, Selena Q Radio. □

In this Nov. 14, 1994 file photo, Selena Quintanilla-Perez performs during a concert in Corpus Christi, Texas.  
Associated Press

## 'The Muppets' return to TV; Miss Piggy swans, Kermit suffers

LYNN ELBER

AP Television Writer

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—It took a decade for Bill Prady to bring his dream of a mockumentary-style sitcom peopled by Muppets to television.

When Muppets owner Walt Disney Co. finally agreed this year, Prady quickly encountered his next key constituency: the puppets' adoring fans, whose congratulations to the producer came with a stern warning.

"Listen, these were a very important part of my childhood, and if you do anything to screw it up we'll never forgive you," Prady recalled being admonished by everyone from his sister to strangers. "We're going to be watching. Best of luck!"

The moment of truth arrives at 8 p.m. EDT Tuesday with the debut of ABC's "The Muppets" starring Kermit, Gonzo, Fozzie Bear, Animal and the ever-fabulous Miss Piggy.

She's the host of a talk show produced by on-again, off-now boyfriend Kermit with a staff that sets its own standard of professionalism. Despite that, "Up



In this image released by ABC, Kermit the Frog, left, and Gonzo the Great appear in a scene from "The Muppets," premiering Sept. 22.

Late With Miss Piggy" attracts guests that include Josh Groban, Laurence Fishburne and Reese Witherspoon and has caught the eye of a documentary film crew.

They've got plenty to cover: star tantrums (Piggy, of course), office romances (Kermit and an ABC marketing executive, Denise, who happens to be a pig; he likes pigs, the frog concedes) and the Muppets'

off-set lives (Fozzie meets his human girlfriend's parents and encounters blatant species-ism).

The show aims for humor that can be appreciated on both adult and kid levels, its producers say, with a gentle reminder that these Muppets, save for Kermit, never mixed with their tamer "Sesame Street" relatives that include Cookie Monster and Elmo.

The jokes aimed at grown-

ups likely will go over a child's head. Example: When the staff gathers for a meeting, house band member Zoot jumps up and introduces himself in apparent accordance with rehab protocol. No, he's told, it's not THAT kind of meeting.

"The Muppets" is the crew's first regular prime-time TV gig since the short-lived "Muppets Tonight" aired in 1998, and it comes more than three decades after the 1976-81 success of "The Muppet Show."

The puppets haven't been idle, of course, making TV movies and specials — including one with Lady Gaga — and big-screen hits "The Muppets" (2011) and "Muppets Most Wanted" (2014).

But Prady said he wanted to see the Muppets in a more authentic light and figured he had the credentials for the job: He started as a TV writer with Henson, the brilliant Muppets creator who was 53 when he died in 1990.

"Characters over time, without the boldness of the person who set them in motion, soften," Prady said. "It's a natural thing and it comes from the best place, which is that these are beloved characters, let's protect them."

"But the Muppets, if you go back to 'The Muppet Show,' they were sarcastic, they were snarky, they

commented on the world around them," he said.

Prady saw the rise of mock-documentaries, among them "The Office," as a way to achieve a Muppets renaissance. Henson put Kermit and pals to work on a variety show in "The Muppet Show" because the genre was a 1970s TV staple; why shouldn't a mockumentary be another ideal vehicle?

When he brought the idea to Disney about 10 years ago they didn't share his enthusiasm for their newly purchased brand.

He tried again, failed, then found a distraction: co-creating and producing (with Chuck Lorre) CBS' hit "The Big Bang Theory."

It was a nudge from veteran Muppets performer and series producer Bill Barretta that sent Prady back to Disney a third time, and this time he scored.

"Part of knowing this would work is in the characters themselves, because this in a way was what they were built for, to try to be real and in the real world," said Prady, who developed the show with co-creator Bob Kushell ("The Simpsons," "Anger Management"). Randall Einhorn is the director and a producer.

Prady rejects the idea that the mockumentary concept he long nurtured could be stale, instead arguing that it's become entrenched as the sitcom form of today.

Whatever the vehicle, the Muppets shine under the stewardship of performers who typically handle several puppets.

They include Barretta (the Swedish Chef, Rowlf); Steve Whitmire (Kermit, Rizzo); Eric Jacobson (Miss Piggy, Fozzie); Dave Goelz (Gonzo, Zoot); David Rudman (Scooter, Janice) and Matt Vogel (Sgt. Floyd Pepper).

"It's the richest world of characters I've ever been a part of, other than maybe when I was writing for 'The Simpsons' back in their fourth, fifth, six seasons," said Kushell. "That was an expansive, exciting world of characters." □

## Review: 'Annie van Sinderen' is a can't-put-down story

KIM CURTIS

Associated Press

To call Katherine Howe's latest novel a ghost story would be an unfair oversimplification. Yes, there's a ghost. And, yes, it's a can't-put-down story. But it's much more than a young adult novel.

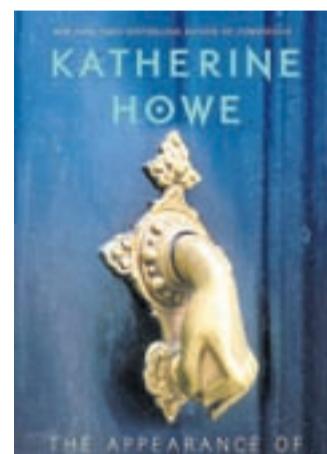
Any discerning reader will be mesmerized by the story of 19-year-old Wes, a budding documentary filmmaker from Wisconsin who is in New York City for a summer program at NYU. "The Appearance of Annie van Sinderen" begins stereotypically at a seance that Wes' friend and fellow summer student, Tyler, is filming. A beautiful young

woman wearing a dress with a satin bow is blocking Tyler's shot.

Wes sees her first through the lens of his camera. "I inhale once, sharply, the way I do when jumping into the lake by my parents' house for the first time at the beginning of the summer, when the water hits me so hard and cold that it makes my heart stop."

So it begins.

The city is one of the novel's main characters and Howe brilliantly stitches together the Manhattan of today with the Manhattan of 1825. She covers the same ground, seeing the city then and now. She captures the slang and



This photo provided by Penguin/Putnam shows the cover of the book, "The Appearance of Annie Van Sinderen," by author Katherine Howe.

Associated Press

speaking styles of Wes and his friends as well as the 16-year-old Annie, a girl of a different age who's forbidden from going out alone and is preparing for her inevitable marriage. Wes and his friends are smart, realistically flawed, clever and quirky. □

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